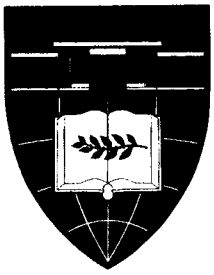


Robert Black College
1967 — 1992

Silver Jubilee Issue

香港大學柏立基學院銀禧特刊

沈殿霖題

Silver Jubilee Celebrations, 12 March, 1992

Sir T.L. Yang

Chief Justice and University Council Chairman

Cutting the Jubilee Cake

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The College wishes to express its gratitude to the following companies for donating prizes to winners of the raffle draws at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations:

Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.	2	round-trip economy air tickets to Bangkok
	2	round-trip economy air tickets to Manila
Target Equipment Co.	1	Sanyo Stereo Radio/Cassette Recorder
	1	Sanyo AM/FM Digital Clock Radio
Casella Far East Ltd.	2	Bottles of Bisquit VSOP
	6	Bottles of Chamei Grape Juice

The College also wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Peter Martin for donating the prize to the winner of the College Crest Contest.

Editorial

by

Dr. W.E. Cheong

I am most impressed by the Master's determination and success in launching the College Journal of which this is the second issue. I gladly accepted the invitation from the Master and Fellows to edit this issue to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the official opening of the College, for two reasons. First, my own direct association with the College started from all those twenty-five years ago, and lasted for about half the history of the College to date; second, my own plan for a College Journal was still-born despite getting to the stage of discussion with a printer.

The first issue contained an important record of main events in the College history which had never before been collected within one cover. This issue records another important event in College history and includes contributions dealing with earlier days of the College. Much more remains unrecorded and it is my hope that in later issues, past Masters and residents might be persuaded to write of their impressions and experiences. In particular, I refer to the former College Swire Scholars and Students who now number in the hundreds, dozens of whom now hold teaching posts in this University alone, and many more are in tertiary education elsewhere. Did I hear suggestions of an Alumni being formed?

Another landmark in this issue is the designing and adoption of the College crest which appears on the cover. Again this was one of my early but unrealized hopes; I had even envisaged a College tie but the ideas were abandoned mainly because there then seemed to be inadequate consumers to justify it. I can however, lay a minor claim to reviving this idea with the present Master.

This issue also has an update of College Fellows, Scholars and Students and sections of contributions from residents, records of talks and seminars organized by the College and abstracts of conference papers presented by members of the College. The range of topics, approach and level has been kept wide to reflect the recent residents and more importantly, the subjects with which they were concerned or the aspect of Hongkong or College life which interested them. The variety and diversity are really inexhaustible and infinite and they are after all some of the great attractions of living in the College. These sections are important because the heart of the College life is the intellectual life and academic activities of its members, whatever the form the end-product takes and wherever it is presented.

For my part, perhaps I should congratulate the Master for having such a bright idea for an editor of this volume, although I am not sure he continued to think it was a good idea when he found himself having to chase down the contributors.

FOREWORD

by

Prof. Leung Wai Sun
Master

The conception of the College dated back to as early as the 1960's when the late former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Lindsay Ride, first toyed with the idea of setting up the first graduate residential college in the University. What he had in mind was a college somewhat modelled on a typical college at Oxford, the university traditionally known to the world for its academic excellence. The College was finally founded in 1967 and was given the name of Robert Black in honour of the Chancellor of the University at the time. During the first phase of existence of the College, successive Masters attempted to run the College along the lines of an Oxford college with varying degrees of success. However, Hong Kong and Oxford are in many ways not quite the same. As time progresses, the College has gradually evolved into an East-West cultural exchange centre with residential facilities for overseas and local scholars and academics. The academic activities in the College have so far been somewhat limited and last year, for instance, they consisted of 11 conferences, 7 lectures and 2 seminars.

Over the years, the College has gradually gained the international reputation of being a residential facility for visiting academics and scholars of the University with an excellent environment for cultural exchange and academic work. Today, the College may not resemble an Oxford college as envisaged at its conception twenty-five years ago but it has taken a form of its own and I have been told by quite a number of overseas visiting academics that they wished they had a facility in their universities modelled on the College. Full credit should be given to the efficient and dedicated full-time College staff whom the guests always find both helpful and cheerful. I am also very grateful to members of the College Management, Finance and Scholarship Committees for their contribution to the success of the College.

To mark the Silver Jubilee of the College, a College Crest has been made following a design competition for the crest which was open to long-term residents and selected staff members of the University. A College name board in Chinese written by the renown Chinese Calligrapher, Prof. Huang Miu-Tse, has been mounted above the College's main entrance on University Drive. A pair of sculptures in the form of two storks made by the famous sculptor, Professor Norman W.M. Ko, and donated by the author have been implanted in the front garden of the College. In March, a Silver Jubilee Dinner Reception was held the details of which is recorded in another article in the journal. In recognition of the roles two former Vice Chancellors played in raising donations for the construction of the College, one overseas Fellowship in the name of Kenneth Robinson and one post-doctoral

Fellowship in the name of Rayson Huang are being established. When the two Fellowships are taken up, hopefully later in the academic year, there will be sufficient academic activities in the College to make it a "college" in the true sense of the word.

Finally, the Silver Jubilee is commemorated by the publication of this journal which is the second of its kind, following one published some four years ago on twenty-first birthday of the College. While the first journal recorded events of the College up to the beginning of 1989, many sections in this journal, e.g. "Lectures & Talks", "Residents' Articles", "Conference Abstracts", "New Facilities", etc., cover activities that took place in the subsequent period leading to the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the College in 1992. The various lists in the Appendices of this journal are continuations of their corresponding lists in the last journal so that the two journals together contain the full record of management committee members and scholarship holders of the College. My sincere thanks go to Dr. John Cheong, a distinguished historian and one of my predecessors as College Master, for taking up the editorship, thus ensuring its high standard of quality.

"The Making of The College ..... in Retrospect"

by

Dr. K.E. Robinson
Vice-Chancellor, 1965-1972

The foundation stone of Robert Black College was laid on the 28th October 1964 in a very leafy part of what was still a surprisingly rural campus, next door to the Vice-Chancellor's garden. Yet although my wife and I stayed with Kay and Bill Knowles at the Lodge a few months later, I cannot recall noticing the building work which much surely have been in progress on the new college and already giving at least a hint of the distinctive and engaging style of its distinguished architect, Szeto Wai, whose untimely death last year we all mourn. Nor do I recollect any talk about the purpose of the college although I remember vividly being given tea at Maxim's by Sir Siukin Tang, who was its major benefactor. Of course the reason we were making that visit to Hong Kong was that the Council and Senate could inspect us and decide whether they wished to transform the suggestion Knowles had made to me in London into a formal invitation to become the University's next Vice-Chancellor, – and whether, if they did we should welcome it. Such a situation indeed concentrates a man's mind but may also narrow his vision and evidently there were other things on my mind. Still it seems to me odd that I don't recall more talk of this new project for a postgraduate college especially as my own earliest academic post had been at Nuffield College, the first wholly postgraduate college in Oxford, while at the time of our visit I was Director of a postgraduate Institute in London University. Still 'old men forget' and I do have a very clear memory of a conversation with Knowles a little later in 1965 when he had retired and I had accepted the invitation to be Vice-Chancellor when he expounded his ideas about a possible appointment to the Mastership of the College – one which in the event could not be pursued as the man in question had left Hong Kong.

By that time, however, it had made clear to me that the new college was intended to meet what were perceived as immediate practical needs. Perhaps the earliest to be spelt out was to offer residential accommodation for students learning Cantonese or Mandarin at the University's Language School set up after the war when it was seen to be impracticable to resume the long-established pre-war practice of sending Hong Kong Cadets – as appointees to the Hong Kong administrative service were still commonly called – for a two year spell on the mainland for this purpose. At the request of the Government – and with a special subvention – the University provided courses for Hong Kong civil servants and also for other British government services notably the Armed Forces and the Diplomatic Service (one of the latter is now Chancellor of the University) including those of several Commonwealth countries and some private students. By 1961 there were 35 such students coming from five countries and it was reported that it was becoming difficult to find suitable Chinese families willing to accommodate

all of them. The Language School was housed in the School of Chinese opened in 1931 and built with funds provided by Tang-chi-Ngong for that purpose, so that it was wholly appropriate that it should be his son, Sir Siukin Tang who, together with two of his friends offered the major benefaction for the new college to commemorate Princess Alexandra's visit for the University Golden Jubilee.

Meanwhile the number of academic visitors to the University was constantly growing. They came as examiners or advisers on specific problems, or to give lectures or to take part in learned conferences or pursue their own research. This was partly the result of the expansion of the University in number of staff and students and the range of its activities, partly of the greater ease of travel and partly of increasingly conscious attempts by international organisations and philanthropic foundations to end the kind of isolation from which Hong Kong University (and many others) had suffered before the war. There were no facilities for the accommodation of such visitors in the University except as guests of the Vice-Chancellor or members of the academic staff. So it was an early aim of the project for Robert Black College that it should also offer residential facilities for such visitors, whether they stayed for a few days or an academic year.

A third need was also identified. In Hong Kong as elsewhere, there was now a greater recognition that the discovery of new knowledge was as important a function of the University as the transmission of existing knowledge. Research is, therefore, as essential as teaching. Especially in the experimental sciences, though not only in them, it was vital to the health of Universities that some of their graduates should pursue their apprenticeship in research in their own university and that graduates of other universities should be attracted to join them. A large increase in postgraduate work and research facilities was accordingly necessary if our University was to recruit and retain scholars of high potential and high standard in a very competitive world of rapidly expanding universities. There were 190 graduates working for postgraduate degrees when I took over as Vice-Chancellor in 1965, most of whom were part time but they included 19 from overseas, some of them holding awards under the Commonwealth Scholarship Plan inaugurated a few years earlier. The new college was to provide for them, too, and I have been told that Sir Lindsay Ride, to whose vision Robert Black College owes so much, was especially concerned by the greatly reduced proportion of overseas students since the war, fearing the results of increased inbreeding on the intellectual horizons of the University.

Among the consequences of the great immigration to Hong Kong after war and the Chinese Revolution was the establishment of many tertiary educational institutions in Hong Kong, three of which were federated in 1963 to form the Chinese University. All needed qualified staff and if successful would need even more in the future. The capacity of the University of Hong Kong to help meet such teaching needs was limited by its own expansion if

not indeed exhausted. It had therefore produced (and secured Government agreement to) a scheme to produce locally qualified staff for higher education by offering postgraduate research studentships the holders of which would be paid on a full time basis, but undertake in addition a specified amount of teaching either in the University or the other colleges. In my first year as Vice-Chancellor 14 such studentships were awarded.

The more I thought about the project for Robert Black College the more anxious I became that it might become a mere lodging house for expatriates in these various categories, or perhaps worse, in the penurious world of Hong Kong higher education at that time, fail to attract enough of them to be financially viable. It seemed to me unlikely that Language School students, still less overseas postgraduate students or longer term academic visitors, would want to spend their time in Hong Kong segregated in a small institution with others of their kind or that those Hong Kong graduates who had secured one of the new postgraduate studentships would be much inclined to incur the additional costs of residence in college, although I thought their inclusion in fair numbers among its residents was likely to be crucial to its success in attracting the various groups of non-Hong Kong people for whom it seemed to me to have been primarily designed. It was while I was mulling over this problem that I learnt that Butterfield and Swire, long established benefactors of the University and contributors to the colleges project, intended to make a gift of £25,000 to the University as part of its centenary celebrations and that Bill Knowles, who had been their *'taipan'* before he undertook his brief stint as Vice-Chancellor had proposed that this should be used in support of social work training in the University. I had no doubt, however, that to apply this gift to provide scholarships to enable selected holders of the new postgraduate studentships to reside in college might make a crucial difference to its prospects of success. Knowles was happy to acquiesce and so, fortunately, were John Swire and Sons and the presentation was made by John Swire himself when I formally opened the college in 1967.

On this basis I was confident that the college would have something of real importance to offer to all those for whom it has been conceived but I was more especially concerned with the advantages it might have for those of our own graduates who elected to do their postgraduate work in their own University. On all sides I had been told of the advantages which were considered to accrue to those young people from Hong Kong who went abroad for their studies, whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level – advantages over and above their specialist training, advantages of social poise and self confidence and breadth of view that came from a wider experience of the world and of association with a wider selection of people of similar abilities and interests. I hoped that if the everyday give and take of college life could be successfully generated in a community of much more various ages and interests than those of an undergraduate Hall, our own

postgraduates in Robert Black College should have a good chance of a closer and more fruitful contact with senior academics that they might often in practice enjoy as mere members of an overseas university. The scale of the operation would be limited but its reality might well be much greater.

In the nature of things, the ideas which had led Sir Siukin Tang and Sir Lindsay Ride to formulate the project, the residents of the college would not only be diverse in age, interest and experience but engaged in very different activities and academic disciplines. What, I wondered, could bring them together? It seemed to me that this could only be the relationship of those interests to the Hong Kong community and that this relationship must somehow be kept in the centre of college activities. To this end, it seemed important to associate with the college members of the academic staff of the University (called non-resident members) who would be likely to contribute to the residents' appreciation and understanding of the life, environment, and problems of this great city. I also thought that it would be a great opportunity to bring into the university members of the Hong Kong community who might thus get a more intimate view of some important aspects of the activities of the University than could be obtained by reading reports and sitting on committees. The college seems to me to have been very fortunate in securing the support of eminent and busy members of the community as Fellows and members of its Committee of Management.

Although I have stayed in the college twice since I retired and am, as I write, about to do so a third time it would be inappropriate to hazard any views about the extent to which some of the hopes of 1963-7 have been fulfilled but I note that several other groups of scholars now find regular places in the college beside the Swire Scholars and Students, notably Li Ka-Shing scholars from China, and China Medical Board Fellows from many neighbouring countries. The buildings have been considerably augmented by the addition of two further 'Halls'. Surely the college has been an outstanding success.

There is, though, one reflection induced by this retrospective exercise (commissioned I may say by the present Master): it is that the college was conceived in a much smaller University and as one which would rely a great deal on informal relations which cannot easily be developed in a large institution. Yet there are now almost as many postgraduate students in the University as there were undergraduates then. May there perhaps be a case for reviewing the role of the college in such a changed context?

MESSAGE

from

Dr. Rayson Huang
Vice-Chancellor, 1972-1986

I am honoured to be asked to write a message for the Journal celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Robert Black College.

The College has been a unique institution in the University, serving a number of distinctive and worthy purposes and has served these well in the past quarter of a century. As a base for visiting scholars, all the more needed for a geographically isolated institution like Hong Kong University, it has been a welcome home for many a distinguished visitor; its regular lectures and other functions have made it a valuable meeting place between town and gown; and as a residential college for postgraduate students it has provided them with not only a place to live, but also opportunities for personal contacts with distinguished men and women from academics all over the world.

It was my privilege to be associated with the College for no less than 14 of the 25 years of its existence. There were two major additions since its inception in both of which I was fortunate to play a part. The first was the erection of the Kong Siu Luey Hall, building of which had been initiated by my predecessor, Dr K. E. Robinson, and completed soon after I arrived, and the second was the K. E. Robinson Hall, built in 1980, both of which followed carefully the architectural lines of the main building and provided substantial accommodation for the ever increasing activities of the College through the years.

I am confident that the College will continue to grow and prosper and on this happy occasion would like to offer, to the past and present Masters and members of the College, my warm congratulations for achievements of the past as well as my best wishes for the future.

MESSAGE

from

Professor Wang Gungwu
Vice-Chancellor

It is doubly meaningful for me to write this message for the Silver Jubilee Journal of the Robert Black College on the eve of the University's own 80th anniversary.

Celebrating an 80th anniversary may appear to be slightly unusual from the conventional point of view but it is important for the University to look forward to its centenary while it is on the threshold of its 80th year because it provides us with an opportunity to carry out some serious soul-searching at this crucial stage of Hong Kong's development. What kind of objectives does the University want to set for itself over the next twenty years, and what should it do now to set the foundations of achieving these objectives?

The Robert Black College certainly has much to be proud of given its achievements in the University's development over the past 25 years, and has played an important role in its mission of bringing together East and West and providing opportunities for all its residents, from postgraduate students to senior professors, to engage in scholastic discussions and interactions. These activities will become increasingly important if Hong Kong is to continue to maintain an international character in the years to come.

I therefore congratulate the Robert Black College on its Silver Jubilee, and look forward to its Golden Jubilee and the promise of another 25 years of solid achievements to come.

MESSAGE

from

Mr. D. A. Gledhill

Chairman of John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Co. Ltd.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to contribute a message to the Silver Jubilee Journal of the Robert Black College, and to offer sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee.

The Swire Group has had a long and happy association with the University of Hong Kong dating back almost to its inception, with the establishment of the Taikoo Chair in Engineering, through to the completion last year of the Swire Marine Laboratory at Cape d'Aguilar. The Swire Group's contacts with Robert Black College started 25 years ago and I can do no better than quote a letter from an ex-Taipan, Bill Knowles, who also was a previous Vice-Chancellor of the University, to John Swire:

> "You may remember further that Lindsay Ride persuaded Tang Shui Kin to provide funds for a Hall of Residence for post-graduate students to be named the Sir Robert Black Hall. This was in fact built, or rather the first stage of it was built, and it is now in existence, the name having been changed to be Robert Black College. Properly developed this College could be of considerable value both to the University and to the Colony. One of its purposes is to provide facilities for visiting research students from abroad, but Robinson himself is also keen to encourage its use by graduates of Hong Kong University itself "because" as he writes, 'a College solely for outsiders is not a very attractive proposition for the outsiders, nor of course to the community in Hong Kong.' He would accordingly very much welcome an endowment with which to subsidize Hong Kong post-graduate students, and he has been wondering whether J.S. & S. would be willing to devote their proposed benefaction to this end. The students benefitting from the endowment could, I imagine, be called Swire Scholars....."

This indeed came to pass and there have been Swire Scholarship and Studentship awards at Robert Black College ever since. We are very proud of our association with the College over the years and not only remain impressed by the high scholastic standards maintained by the College but also by the number, amongst our staff, of its old boys. It is my pleasure to extend our best wishes to the Master and his staff, and for the continuing success of the College in the years to come.

MESSAGE BY CABLE

from

Sir John & Sir Adrian Swire
Former and Present Chairmen
John Swire & Sons Ltd. London

Congratulations from all of us in John Swire & Sons in London on your 25th Anniversary, and best wishes to you and your staff for the continued success of the College in the future.

Kindest regards
John & Adrian Swire

FROM FORMER MASTERS

Reflections on Robert Black College From Cambridge

by

Prof. Ho Peng Yoke
Master, 1984-1987

In the autumn of 1964 I witnessed the laying of the foundation stone on the site of Robert Black Hall by the then Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong and Governor, Sir Robert Black. At that moment I never dreamt that twenty years later I was to become Master of a college to be built on that spot. Still less could I imagine that the principal benefactor of Robert Black Hall was none other than Sir Siu Kin Tang, a great friend of my wife's family.

While I served as Master of Robert Black College, I was also appointed director of the East Asian History of Science Foundation in Hong Kong that raised funds for the building of the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge. In December 1986 Dr Joseph Needham was invited to speak at a College guest night. Dr Needham was trying to raise funds in Hong Kong for the South Wing of the Needham Research Institute. Directors of the Foundation were invited to the party among other guests. It was at the dinner that the decision was made to send money to Cambridge for the building of the South Wing. The Wing opened on 10 May 1991, and this is where I am sitting, pondering over what to write to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the College.

One can hardly find a better place than the Needham Research Institute to remind oneself of Robert Black College. Although the whole building was designed by an English architect, it has the flavour of a traditional Chinese building and yet blends quite naturally with the English surroundings. The red pillars on the side of the building facing the garden, the broad verandah with its balusters, Chinese flowers and plants in the garden, fish in the brook, plaque bearing names of benefactors, etc. all remind me of Robert Black College.

Many a time I was asked what Robert Black College was. I had to tell visitors from China that it was not a university faculty and that it was not involved directly with teaching and research at the University. In Hong Kong it is sometimes mistaken for a teachers' training institution that bears the name of the same Governor of Hong Kong. Within the University of Hong Kong, it is a residential college that stands apart from the other residential halls for students. It admits only graduate students who hold scholarships or studentships offered through it; the Master cannot play the role of a warden when residents of the college include not only post-graduate students but also external examiners, and visiting professors if not vice-chancellors of

other universities. It is well endowed to be independent of the University in funding. The term "Master" was borrowed from Oxford and Cambridge, but here the similarity between Robert Black College and its English counterparts ends. It is not governed by a body of college fellows, it has no tutors, and the Master is appointed by and is answerable to the Vice-Chancellor. It must not be regarded as a subsidized hotel, providing comfortable accommodation to a few selected research students and a temporary home within the campus to visiting academics. Robert Black College is a unique residential college of a kind that provides the congenial atmosphere of a Chinese mansion in a haven of tranquility within reach of the hustle and bustle of a vibrant city where young and mature minds interact.

I deem it a great privilege to have been a part of Robert Black College and on the celebration of its Silver Jubilee I offer my warmest congratulations and wish that it will grow from strength to strength.

Some Missing Pages in the History of the College

by

Dr. W.E. Cheong

(Residential Fellow, 1967-1969; Master, 1970-1979)

More than ten years after I left the College, I see a new verve and life in the College. It seems most appropriate, now that the pattern of life and activities has been set again on firm course, to open the book to the place in the early days when this kind of society was just an inchoate idea in the mind of a strippling in his twenties.

I was a young man living in the modest single-bedroom flat by a romatic brook tucked away in a little byway of the University campus,[1] when the new building began to take shape at the top of the hill overlooking the campus of the University. As it neared completion, I took to dropping in after the workers had gone. The huge black wooden doors with brass studs gaze on a courtyard with the living quarters on one side and the sleeping quarters on the other side; in the courtyard, a couple of adolescent pine trees, all arms and legs, crouched over a willow weeping into a small lily pond; blue tiles on Chinese gables supported by sturdy burgundy pillars against grey walls; long corridors hemmed by white balustrades webbed in the geometric Buddhist motif, ran the length and breadth of the building; the rooms with unobstructed sea-views had cantilevered port balconies. It was in traditional Chinese architectural style interpreted in the manner of the then Professor of Chinese who had spent years in Chinese monasteries and country inns, and actualised by Szeto Wai, the architect who later also designed the Kong Siu Luey Wing of the College.

I soon met some of the inhabitants of this new College. I was in my first tour of service in the University and eager to make friends and influence people. To this end, I started to learn tennis and put on musical and other kinds of soirées. On the court below the College, I met some of the residents; many of them came to the parties, as did the Vice-Chancellor and many visiting scholars in town. Frequently, a somewhat unfulfilled but ill-defined need made me wonder aloud at the possibilities of an academic society developing among official visitors, research students and itinerant scholars in that building up the hill. I was by no means the only person who thought of the Robert Black College in those terms, but I was not to know then. How often the young think their ideas are entirely original; now infrequently the old admit they are wrong.

Before long, I heard that the old Master was leaving; next, I was asked whether I would not like to move up to the College. A pleasant surprise, excitement, and bafflement. Why was he leaving so soon? It had not worked well. Was there not going to be a new Master? Yes, there was going to be one, but clearly, I was not the candidate for that post – and how could I be,

for I had just completed my postgraduate studies and was in my first blush of youth (sic!) At any rate, I accepted without a second thought, went away on a working summer vacation to the Sorbonne where I had been postdoctoral Scholar the previous year, and returned not to my brookside chalet, but to the Chinese mansion up the hill as the Resident Fellow at the Robert Black College.

The mundane explanation for the creation of the Resident Fellowship was that the magistral lodgings were a trifle cramped for the incoming Master and his family; he was therefore to occupy a more substantial quarter in a building further down the hill from the College. In consequence, there was the need for someone *in situ* to respond to house-keeping problems requiring immediate attention, for whatever our high sights might be, the material needs of residents had first to be adequately attended to, as we all soon learnt. There were the old world College regulations which foreign residents did not understand and continuously chaffed against or ignored. There was the daily discussion of menu and management of the kitchen, for in those days the College operated its own kitchen on the principle that you could better control prices and decide your food by the day. The kitchen was under the Chief Cook, the Dining Room, parties and minor staff were under that Steward, and the bedrooms and overall domestic organisation was under a resident Housekeeper; the College clerk dealt with the paperwork. But lines were never clearly drawn in the early days of the College when separate turfs were being staked out and bickering inevitably occurred where competences overlapped. The Resident Fellow was really the Domestic Bursar without the name. He stood in the first line of impact, reported to the Master and between them they would decide on a response or action; he was also on the Management Committee, where he was the conduit of information rather than the policy or decision maker.

In 1969, tragedy struck the Master's family; he was distraught and disconsolate for months. Pressure from the College was something he could have done without and I have always thought it most unfortuate that residents should have unknowingly pursued their grievances at this particular moment. Some people act thoughtlessly to get their way; others take deliberate action thoughtfully, for want of moral courage to do the right thing; the first more accurately describes the 1969 situation. A second Master had left office in quite unhappy circumstances. I was elected to be the next Master, and accepted with trepidation, fortified only by the confidence shown in me and by the apprenticeship and tutelage which my period as Resident Fellow had provided.

The first decision I made as Master was not to have a Resident Fellow; by sheer coincidence, in the month before the Master's departure, the Housekeeper resigned.[1] It fell to me to accept the resignation and to decide also to do away with the post. I had to seriously consider whether these two

resignations suggested the unsuitability of carrying on a tripartite system of management. The previous arrangement had been an uneasy one. The Housekeeper was constantly at odds with other staff, upstairs and downstairs, and it was a moot point whether the person or the post was the cause. The difficulties at times became acrimonious and there was always some tension. I decided that a College of twenty-five could do without a full-time resident Housekeeper. The position of the Resident Fellow was anomalous in a different way; things reached him before they got to the Master, but he could only manoeuvre and manipulate the problems to avoid upstaging the Master or undermining the Housekeeper. Living with the students and visiting scholars inevitably increased the closeness to them and knowledge of day to day problems and interests. There is much to be said for a daily dose of interaction, to keep one sharp, abreast of incipient problems and responsive. A Resident Fellow found himself buffered from above, below and the middle. I decided that it was unnecessary to make another young man run the same gauntlet, especially as there were no immediate candidates pressing for appointment and the alternatives, as I had rehearsed to myself several times, were not many. The price of the two decisions to leave vacant the posts of Resident Fellow and Resident Housekeeper, was for the new Master to take on their functions as well.

It occured to me in considering how to take the College forward, that earlier problems had been closely connected with the lack of continuity; this had many dimensions. The new College lacked tradition, precedents, long-established practices and observances to serve as perimeters and parameters. In a situation where a College is hide-bound by tradition, one might be wishing for change and relaxation, but our problem was otherwise. The residents are the College in a place of this kind; but there was no permanent core among them. They spoke their minds freely and acted with determination, but after them the life had to go on whether they had done the College a service or mischief. The range of behaviour, views and values were wide and varied and they came randomly; there was no standard with which to compare their kind, order, relevance or shape.

An alternative or preferably a complement to the long-term resident would be a permanent body of College Fellows who would be offered a College living as the lure.[3] As a body they could develop and maintain a College character by their conduct, expectations and declared positions regarding College affairs and provide the permanent academic core of College activities which then depended entirely on transient scholars or occasional seminars. The frequent turnover of residents and even a new or non-residential Master would test such a fabric but would not significantly alter the texture of life; at any rate, the Fellows would elect someone to their mind akin. Against this, the cost of maintaining several Resident, Visiting and Research Fellows would have been prohibitive for the then impecunious College; moreover, the Master was not appointed by the Fellows but by

preferment, so experience may not be relevant and the new tenant might still not sit well with the general body of Fellows who would not have been his electors. But the decisive argument against a further move in that direction was that the University then did not have a body of young scholars avid for this kind of life, although it was by no means monastic and in fact became known for its sybaritic propensities. Many young local colleagues needed lodgings but had no idea of collegial living, commitment and pursuit; most foreign staff were no better versed about College life and they had University housing for which free College lodgings would be poor comparison; the young Oxbridge brigade thought of the idea of recreating such a milieu in Hongkong.

Our early Masters were both Oxford men who had graduated high in their class, but they were no longer practising academics; they probably sought to re-establish their idea of College life in the Robert Black, but they were only briefly in office and a transplant of the English institution might well not take; it came truncated – without the means, the history and traditions, the body of homogenous supporters of College life and the connection with the teaching function; it was alien to the majority of the academics and even more so to the very mixed group of residents although the elegant buildings encouraged high expectations which made fulfilment even more elusive. The job could not be handled simply as an administrative responsiblity although our direction was less certain. I had the distinct advantage, during my two years as Resident Fellow, of mastering the ins and outs of the domestic management, and getting to know the residents and the style of living, and I inherited with the Mastership some roots and buds left from the first four wintry years of struggle of which I had been a part.

Gone was the frightful red ink in the account books and plans were afoot for an extension up the hill which would make the society more viable and the lodgings more economical. The Fellows' meetings became less lugubrious and the first two residential Swire Scholars had been appointed in 1967, and others followed, from an endowment received to mark the official opening of the College. I had amputated the garrulous if not quarrelsome from staff relationship by suppressing the posts of Resident Fellow and resident Housekeeper, and replaced the layered structure of authority with a single direct line of command. As the houskeeping problems were resolved, the academic life took main stage; it was curiously like the growth of a society where affluence and material comforts provide leisure, raise expectations and increase capacity to consume non-material commodities. The early days of the College was all to do with the making of a new society and I felt I was cast in the role of maker and product of that society.

As the nature of the College and its character was unformed, I had played it much by the ear rather than from precedent or external or higher guidance, for there was none. It was not a job of moving into and adjusting

to a stream already in full flow but making and coaxing into existence a Robert Black culture. The place was just a new building; everything not material – the life – had to come from the residents; much time and effort was needed to harness the very diverse floating interests and talents to recreate something for everyone at the time and grow the culture. I now consider many of the problems I had to solve to be mainly a matter of people-management. The job of Resident Fellow was rewarding in the many good friends I made, the enjoyable company I could keep and the vigorous and robust arguments I had. My tennis improved, for Saturdays 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. was an RBC afternoon on the court. It was hard work but not a great hardship; the greatest hardship was getting to bed in the wee hours of the morning and getting down for a Sunday morning knock-out tournament organized by a tough Australian surgeon who was a tennis buff. Although the measure of my success or failure seemed to me to be in such small things as my public demeanour, ability to make conversation, my gregariousness, and the success of College functions, I learnt later that activities in the College had begun to etch a distinctive picture of life in that corner of the University campus and create an image of the College in the campus and at large. This was an equally important developement because although the residents are the College, the standing of the place depends on the perception of the outsider.

A College ethos and a style was emerging; a start was made to organize seminars in which College Scholars presented papers on their research and visiting scholars were invited to make contributions from time to time. Town and gown contacts had still to be strengthened. Many College regulations and services no longer survive – the 11 o'clock curfew when College gates were locked, the breakfast gong, announcing the approaching end of breakfast; fixed sitting arrangements at dinner, the putting out of shoes at night for cleaning; morning tea served in guest rooms; ladies retiring after dinner while the men stayed on for cigars and port; separate female and male floors and bathrooms and so on. The growth of a College vocabulary, an *argot*[4] if you like, was another sign of a distinctive culture developing which is only possible when residents are there for a sufficient length of time of develop a special rapport with each other and come to understand the meaning of certain words and terms. To name but a few:

"Toad Hall", – an irreverent reference to the large building down the road from the College; also called *"Buckingham Palace"* with a knowing smirk;
"Old Master's Flat" (also called *"W.C.1"*) which was curiously numbered W.C.1, now the College Office; and later, the *"New Master's Flat"* – the irony from the old and new Masters rather than the old/new flats;
"the dungeon" – the College office, then located in the basement of the block facing the dining room;
"a barouche" – a cab, taxi, car;
"orgy" – (preferably the French spelling and pronunciation *"orgie"*) meaning

a great bash;
"absent friends" referring to the absent Master;
"inmates" – residents of the College;
"the two little men", *"the other little man"* referring to one or both of the two long-term English residents of rather small physical stature – a Zoologist and a Psychologist;
"the fellows" meaning the members of the Management Committee;
"Himself and Herself" referring to the then Vice-Chancellor and his wife who invited the residents remaining in College during Christmas, to pre-Christmas drinks before the College Christmas Dinner which was regularly held on the night of the 24th of December. Both functions became annual fixtures in the College social calendar.

In retrospect, the Resident Fellowship at the time seemed to require someone with a certain kind of personality and an idea of College life. This is not to say that it could not have been done in another or better way, but I believe that if a Resident Fellow is appointed today, a different person would be needed and his job would be entirely different. I did not have a fixed view of the ultimate society or a blueprint about how to go about it, nor can I pretend that as Resident Fellow I could decide the direction of the College; I do not think that I found one until well into my Mastership, so I shall not deal with it here. However, at the time, in the absence of the Master, the shape and quality of material, social and intellectual life depended much on the man on the spot. Undoubtedly I also owe the residents of the time a debt for allowing me to get on with my job. My tenure as Resident Fellow followed by ten more years as Master provided continuity of a kind, but the structure of the College permitted no organic way for ensuring that its life and activities would continue or develop under my successor in the same style.

Every new tenant of high office must learn his ropes and earn his spurs but it is a different learning process when you have nothing to go by and start with. It is crucial in such a situation to have a backer to stand by you through thick and thin, and that I had unstintingly from the man who the residents came to know affectionately as "Himself".

[1] The byway was called University Drive, which wound down steeply to a quiet cul-de-sac where a 3-storey block in Swiss chalet style had been built into the steep hill whose exposed red-earth cliffs towered over it. By the building ran a stream which had been concreted over into a very large rain nullah forded by a wooden footbridge, when the building was put up. The rush of water and the trees which crowded this little corner of the campus encouraged birds to nest and sing early in the morning; the whole setting gave the impression of living by a brook in the countryside.

[2] She later gave me the impression that she would not have gone had she known of the Master's impending departure.

[3] This idea is still valid and perhaps even stronger today, especially as the College is now financially independent. The role of such a Fellow may well be different from what I had in mind at the time.

[4] Slang, often used among close groups such as locals in a small community, students, crooks, etc.

THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Master Speaks

Professor Leung Wai Sun's Address at the Silver Jubilee Dinner, 12 March 1992

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all a very warm welcome to you all to the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Robert Black College, a special welcome to all the distinguished guests and a very special welcome to our Guests of Honour who have come all the way from the U.K. to join us today. Our Guests of Honour from the U.K. tonight are: Lady Youde whom the people of Hong Kong love so dearly and Dr. & Mrs. Robinson who have a special place in the hearts of many of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Robert Black College is 25 years old or more precisely 26 years old if we count another ten months from the date of its conception by our late V.C. Sir Linsay Ride. Ladies and Gentlemen, please give a big hand to Lady Ride who is with us tonight. After the conception, Sir Linsay found that the discomfort too much for him to bear. So he decided to pass the bucket to his successor, Dr. Kenneth Robinson, who gracefully went through the labouring process and gave birth to the College. All that came to pass in the year of our Lord 1967 and the baby College was born into the world in the midst of riots and street bombs in Hong Kong. Understandably, Dr. Robinson had many a sleepless night wondering whether his new-born baby would ever be able to grow up. Nevertheless by the time his successor, Dr. Rayson Huang, came on to the scene five years later, the College was already standing on its feet. Dr. Huang nursed the College from its childhood to adolescence and in the process he added a couple of wings to the College, namely the Kong Siu Luey Wing and the Robinson Wing, thus giving the College the means to take off. The College continued to mature during the era of our present V.C., Prof. Wang Gung-wu and it is during his Vice-Chancellorship that the College has actually taken off. According to my informant, the College is now reputed to be the best University Guest House in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, maybe I have overexaggerated the roles of the Vice-Chancellors in the development of the College. After all the Vice-Chancellors only did all the talking and to be truthful it was the College Masters, past and present, with their dedicated staff who have done all the work. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big hand to Dr. John Cheong who represents the past masters tonight. At this juncture I would like to thank all the College donors who paid for the construction of all the College buildings. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big hand to Mr. Richard Tang who represents the College donors this evening. I would also like to thank the Swire Group of Companies for financing a dozen Swire Scholars to reside in the College every year. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big hand to Mr. Yao, director of the Company in Hong Kong. Today I have received a fax

from John Swire and Sons in London congratulating the College on its Silver Jubilee Celebration. The fax was signed by Sir John Swire and Sir Adrian Swire.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I have consistently made wrong predictions on the stock market, with disastrous consequences to myself, I would not like to attempt to predict what the future will hold for the College in 25 years' time. However, I am confident that in the next five years, the College will be well on its way to become one of the best academic residential centres in the world. To this end, the College has just set up two Fellowships in the names of Kenneth Robinson and Rayson Huang to promote the academic activities in the College. Ladies and Gentlemen, I must admit that I do love to stand in the limelight. Unfortunately, I have already used up the time allocated to me so I have to go back to my seat. But before I do so, may I ask all the College residents to rise and join me in drinking a toast to all our guests.

To the health of all our guests.

Welcome by College Master, Professor Leung Wai Sun, Vincent

From The Guest of Honour

Dr. Kenneth Robinson's Address at the Silver Jubilee Dinner, 12 March 1992

Vice-Chancellor, Master and Friends,

I should need to command truly remarkable eloquence to be able to give you any idea of the pleasure it is to us to join you on this happy occasion. We are greatly enjoying the warm welcome and generous hospitality offered to us on this our third visit to Hong Kong since I retired as Vice-Chancellor twenty years ago. The happy memories we share of our years in Hong Kong and the opportunity this evening gives us to meet old friends and make new ones prompt me to echo that epicurean sentiment which refers to far more than food and drink when the poet declares "Fate cannot harm me! I have dined today".

We are here tonight to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Robert Black College, twenty five years which have surely constituted one of the most tumultuous and surprising quarter centuries in the history of the modern world, a period of alarming tensions and great changes. Those changes have been paralleled, often indeed exemplified, in Hong Kong. They have also been paralleled in the University and more widely in the structure and scale of higher education in Hong Kong and are still gathering momentum. They entail great change of scale as well as changes of emphasis and in the range of academic activity. The number of postgraduate students is now not much less than the number of undergraduates in 1965. Robert Black College nonetheless remains as a focal point for the development of many kinds of fruitful dialogue not only between those who have been nurtured in Chinese civilization and those who have been nurtured in Western civilization, not only between academics and men and women active in the Hong Kong community, not only between established scholars visiting the University from outside Hong Kong and our young postgraduate students just embarking on their apprenticeship in research but also between the many and varied disciplines that constitute the world of learning, the growing fragmentation of which is another intractable aspect of changes in scale.

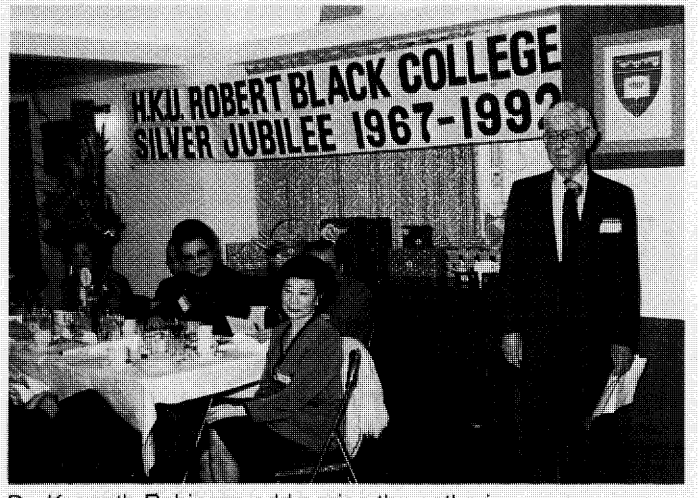
The international world of scientific and technological studies develops with such speed that international converse is almost continuous: whoever does not take a world view falls behind. I myself have long been a kind of dinosaur in science and technology, a fact brought home to me many years ago when, like many other parents, I inveighed against the then recent introduction of popular television into our lives as likely to prove only too often a waste of time to which my young son retorted 'I dare say the Vikings said much the same about books.' But if the fundamental importance of the sciences in the practical world of technology is generally accepted what that implies for free scientific enquiry and its funding is not always understood.

Nevertheless the intellectual as well as the practical importance of the sciences is widely conceded and their place in the academic world respected. I do not believe we can claim any such degree of consensus about the significance or value of the humanities or the share of resources deployed in higher education which should be allotted to them. Yet here in Hong Kong it seems to me more rather than less essential to maintain the study of those branches of learning which seek to identify and elucidate the differences and affinities between ways of thinking about people and their lives so many of which are encountered here – language and literature, history and philosophy, the study and practice of the arts.

In such a context, the part that can be played by a small residential centre, as conceived by its founders, Siu King Tang and Lindsay Ride and developed by successive masters and members, by encouraging fruitful dialogues between those who stay in it for varying but often quite short periods should not be exaggerated. But tonight we are here to celebrate the very considerable achievements of the last twenty five years rather than to speculate about the future. We may properly recall some words of the English poet John Milton.

> "Where there is much desire to learn, there will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions, for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making"

I am sure this meeting place has seen "much desire to learn" and enabled many of its members to "behold the bright countenance of truth in the quite and still air of delightful studies" words of Milton that I quoted in my first congregation address in 1965 as the great aim of all universities. Let us trust that in the next twenty five years there will continue to be much "knowledge in the making" in Robert Black College and the University of Hong Kong.



Dr. Kenneth Robinson addressing the gathering

The Master on Reunion Night

for Swire Scholars
18 March 1992

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all a very warm welcome to you all to the Robert Black College of the University of Hong Kong. This year the Robert Black College is 25 years old and in the course of the year we shall be holding a number of functions such as this one to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the College. This particular dinner function tonight is held in honour of our ex-Swire Scholars who have at one time or another taken the College as their home. So to all the ex-Swire Scholars present here this evening, may I say: "Welcome home". It has been a very long time since you left the College and you don't look one day older. It is remarkable, isn't it? I am glad to note that many of you are already well established in your careers. I am even more glad to note that some of you came to the College today in your Merzedes Benzes. Well done and congratulations.

Last week at exactly the same time and standing on exactly the same spot in this room I was telling our guests my story of the Robert Black College. Tonight, I am going to tell you my story of the Swire Scholarships. 25 years ago, the Robert Black College was founded to accommodate university visitors from overseas and the idea was that the College should run on a financially self supporting basis. Soon after the College opened its doors, it became painfully apparent that given the small size of the University at the time there was no way for the College to rely on the income from the residence of the handful of overseas visitors to make ends meet. So, the University was in a dilemma and the College was heading for liquidation. Fortunately, Dr. Kenneth Robinson, the then Vice-Chancellor of the University thought of a brilliant idea. He persuaded the John Swire and Sons Co. Ltd. to set up residential scholarships to pay for the residence of a dozen local graduate students in the College. So, with one single stroke Dr. Robinson saved the College from bankruptcy and the Swire Scholarships were born. Well, all that happened over 20 years ago and times have changed. Today, the College's finances are in good shape and the residence of the local graduate students are jointly supported by the Swire Scholarships and a subsidy in rent by the College.

So much then for my version of the history of Swire Scholarships. Ladies and Gentlemen, for the official version of the history, you have to ask the renowned historian, Dr. Robinson, who is with us tonight. I know that many of the ex-Swire Scholars feel rather sentimental about the College. That is understandable because it was in the College that they had their first taste of love. I know that many of them are longing to come back to the College to relive their days of destiny. Well I have good news for them. Tonight I have arranged to hold two raffle draws – the first one for everybody in the room

and the second one exclusively for the ex-Swire Scholars. And the prize of the second raffle draw is a free love-nest suite in the College for one long weekend. I shall ensure that the love-nest suite has an isolated location and there will be maximum privacy for its occupants. Well, good luck.

Tonight's reunion party for the ex-Swire Scholars is the first of its kind. Now that the ex-Swire Scholars have re-established links and contacts with each other, it is up to them to turn the reunion party into an annual event. Hopefully the annual reunions will lead to the formation of a Swire Scholar Alumni Association in the not-too-distant future. In honouring the Swire Scholars this evening I must also express my gratitude to the source of the Swire Scholarships, namely, the John Swire and Sons Co. Ltd. which is here by our Guests of Honours Mr. & Mrs. Glen Docherty. Ladies and Gentlemen, may I ask you all to rise and join me in drinking a toast to the Swire Group of Companies.

To the Swire Group of Companies.

A Resident Recalls – 12 March 1992

by

Ms. Felicity C. Rose
Commonwealth Scholar

The Swire Lounge had never been so full of people, of all ages, of all nationalities. Masters of the College, Vice-chancellors, graduates, students, scholars and our generous benefactors, of today and of yesterday, renewed old friendships and, as inevitable in the College, generated new ones. Guest night buffets, though always outstanding, had never been quite so sumptuous. The College buildings had been spruced up for the occasion. Two new bronze storks had been installed in the garden. Designs of the college crest were on display contributed by the contest winners, Mr Desmond Hui, a lecturer in the department of Architecture, and Lisa Young, a Rotary Scholar currently living in the College. So what was the cause for all this celebration? Robert Black College reached its first quarter century in 1992. On the evening of 12 March, members of the College, present and past, and several distinguished guests, gathered to mark the occasion.

Even as the cocktails began, how much the College means to so many people from around the world became clear, those present voting in person, literally, for the success of the College, and, no doubt, as proxies for many for whom distance proved too great a barrier. Indeed, so many people wished to attend that a subsequent function had to be prepared.

Students used to surviving on packet noodles and sandwiches drooled over oysters and chocolate mousse, roast beef and cream-cakes, salad and salmon. The wine flowed. But it should not really be for the fantastic food that the Silver Jubilee will be remembered. Much more than an excellent dinner marked this important anniversary. Andy Karsner, a Rotary Scholar resident in the College at present, and a postgraduate student studying Comparative Asian Studies, very ably and wittily guided us through the evening's programme as Master of Ceremonies. As an opening to the formalities, a beautiful birthday cake was cut by the Hon. Sir T. L. Yang, Chief Justice of Hong Kong and Chairman of the University Council. This ceremony was accompanied by a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday".

There are many people to thank for making the College what it is today – Masters, Vice-Chancellors, benefactors, residents, and, last but by no means least, the dedicated staff, always there with a friendly smile and a solution to even the most ridiculous problem. Three of them spoke with great fondness for the College – and with a consistent theme of how the College has grown since its inauguration in 1967, and how they hope that it shall continue to progress for many years to come. Firstly, the present Master, Professor Leung Wai-sun, welcomed everyone and extended a special welcome to Lady Youde who came from the U.K. to attend the

function. In these days of modern technology, he was holding, not a telegram, but a fax, from Sir John and Sir Adrian Swire of John Swire & Sons Co. Ltd. in London to congratulate the college and its members on its 25th Birthday. The Swire Group have been, and continue to be, generous benefactors to the College, not least in the provision of 12 scholarships per annum to enable local graduate students to pursue research in their chosen fields. The Master enlightened many of the more junior members of College about the College's conception prior to its birth on January 19th 1967, and about its subsequent development, and all those who have played a part therein. The College has achieved so much over the past two and one half decades, he said, and has developed into a haven for scholarly pursuit and the site of international colloquium. And yet it has barely reached adulthood; there is so much more growth and achievement which we know, with the same positive effort as has been executed in the past, will grace the College in years to come.

Dr. Kenneth Robinson, Guest of Honour, then took centre stage. As Vice-chancellor of the University from 1965 to 1972, he was well placed to talk of the college's foundation; indeed he officiated at its opening ceremony in 1967. He and his wife travelled all the way from England especially for the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Professor Wang Gung-wu, present Vice-Chancellor, in proposing a toast to the College, impressed upon all those who have a part in the College's future not to take too much heed of the promise that after 1997 'nothing will change in Hong Kong, he was referring not to economic or political uncertainty, however, but rather to the fact that Robert Black College should change and grow upwards and outwards, as an academic centre and as a social meeting-point for scholars the world over. The Master announced the foundation of 2 Fellowships to enhance the academic importance of the College, and the University, still further.

The speeches over, and the audience already pleasantly amused, superb musical entertainment was provided by members of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra – Mary Yang, a Swire Scholar currently studying for an M. Phil in the Department of Music of the University, on piano, accompanied Wong Sze Hang, on violin, Ng Chi, on viola, and Ray Wang on cello, performed the Piano Quartet in G minor, Opus 25, by Brahms. This proved an excellent way to crown the excellent evening which launched Robert Black College into its next quarter century.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Vice-Chancellors Reunite,
12 March, 1992

L to R Dr Rayson Huang, Dr Kenneth Robinson, Professor Wang Gungwu

College Crest Design Competition

Winner Desmond Hui and
Dr Peter C.Y. Lee, 18 March, 1992

At the Buffet
18 March, 1992

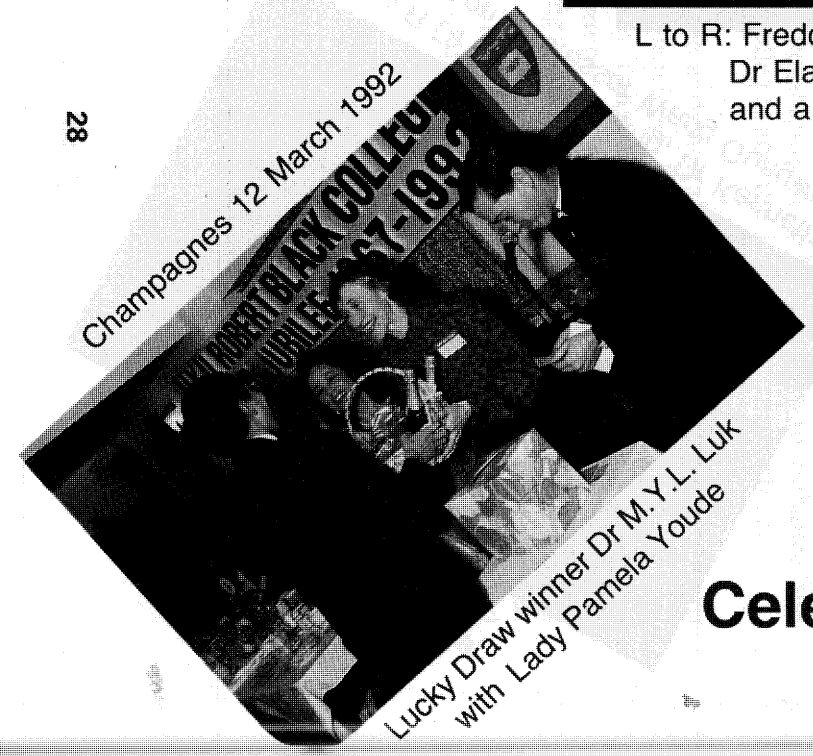
Swire Scholar's Reunion
18 March, 1992

Silver

Jubilee

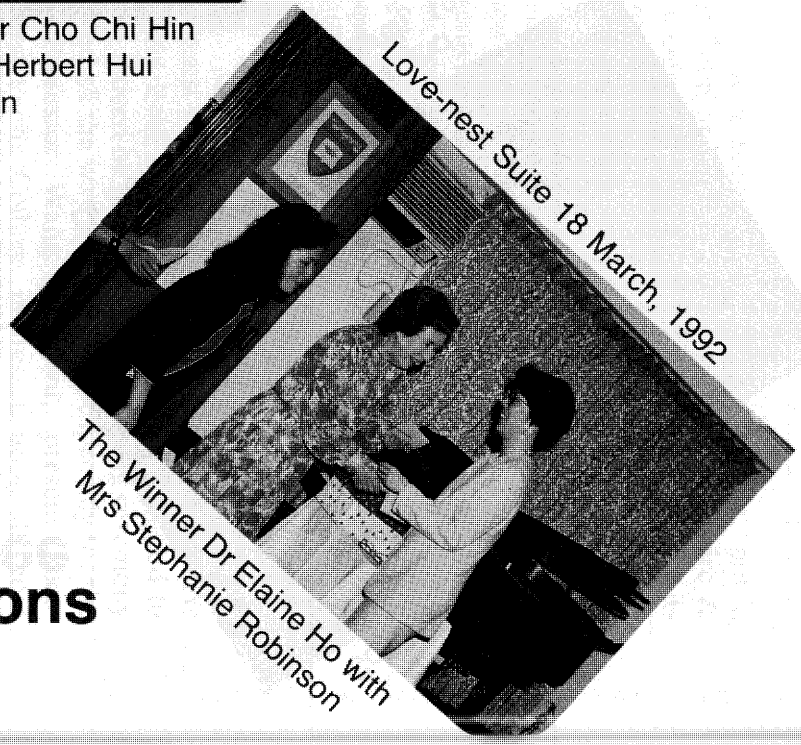
L to R: Freddie Wong, Dr Cho Chi Hin
Dr Elaine Ho, Dr Herbert Hui
and a mystery man

Champagnes 12 March 1992



Lucky Draw winner Dr M.Y.L. Luk
with Lady Pamela Youde

Love-nest Suite 18 March, 1992



The Winner Dr Elaine Ho with
Mrs Stephanie Robinson

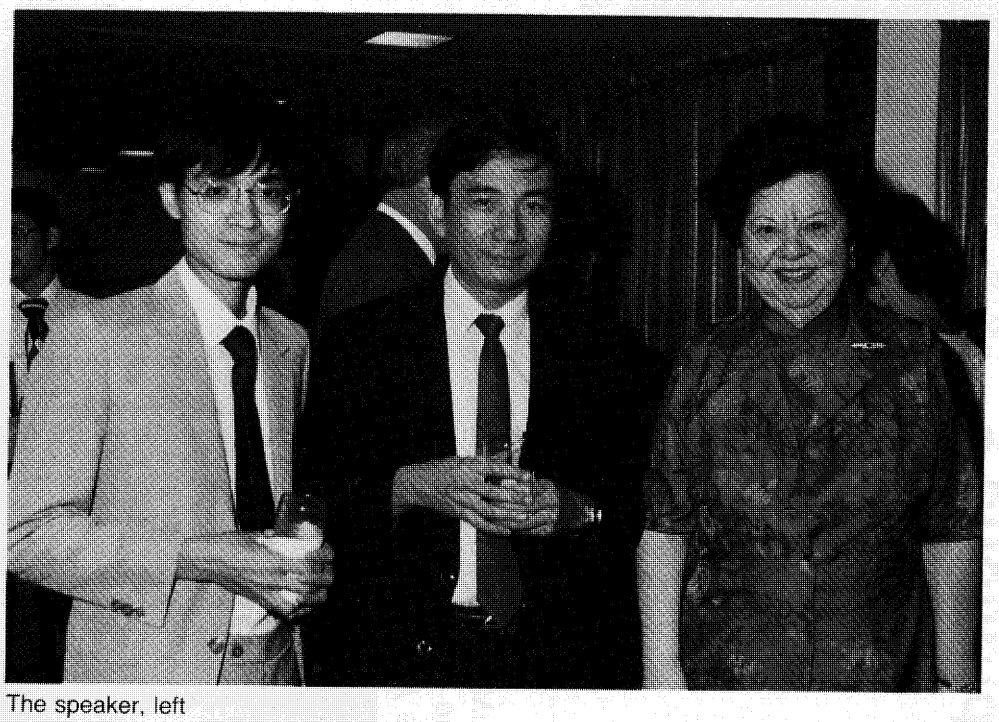
Celebrations

LECTURES GIVEN IN ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE

The Constitutional Future of Hong Kong

by

Albert H.Y. Chen
University of Hong Kong



The speaker, left

The future of Hong Kong, HK, has always been a subject of much uncertainty, because, in the words of one writer, Hong Kong is a borrowed place living on borrowed time. Since December 1984, when the Sino-British Joint Declaration, JD, on the Question of Hong Kong was signed, the uncertainty has been reduced, at least as regards the constitutional and legal aspects of HK's future. HK has now begun its transition from being a British colony to becoming an autonomous Special Administrative Region of the China in 1997. As one scholar has aptly described it, this will be a process of decolonization without independence.

The present-day constitution of HK is in fact quite similar to those of nineteenth century British colonies, with powers being concentrated in the governor appointed by the London government. One writer has pointed out that "HK's economic growth over the past 20 years has been one of the great success stories of the developing world, yet this has taken place under a system of government which has hardly changed in its essential features for more than a hundred years." Other commentators wrote that HK is "an administrative no-party state", "an economic miracle without politics". But to what extent are these likely to change in the transitional years leading up to 1997?

In considering this question, I think it would be useful to compare and contrast the Hong Kong situation with other British colonies which underwent decolonization in the past. Such a mental exercise can, I think, highlight the peculiar and unique circumstances of the case of Hong Kong.

For almost all former British colonies, and, indeed, all colonies of the Western powers, decolonisation, means simultaneously the growth of the colony towards independence and statehood. The typical British approach to decolonisation has therefore been to prepare the colonial people for self rule by developing in the colony a system of democratic or representative government, and gradually transferring power to the elected representatives of the people. Representative government in the British sense consists, of course, of a legislature elected by the people, and an executive which is responsible or accountable to the legislature. So in the typical decolonisation process, the colonial legislature, originally consisting of appointees of the governor, will be gradually transformed into an elected legislature. The executive council will also evolve into one consisting of elected politicians, who will also take up the positions of ministers responsible for various areas of administration. Political parties will be allowed to develop, and the leader of the majority party will become the chief executive, while the governor's role will be reduced to that of a figurehead.

Is this pattern of constitutional evolution appropriate for Hong Kong? This question in itself is less important than the question of who is to answer this question. Is it for the British government to decide the shape of the future government system of Hong Kong? If not, who is to decide? The JD provides a clear answer to the question. The constitutional structure of HK in 1997 and beyond is to be prescribed by the Basic Law of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of HK, and the Basic Law is to be enacted by the PRC legislature – the National People Congress, NPC. In other words, the destination of HK's constitutional evolution in the pre-1997 transition is to be determined by the PRC government through the Basic Law.

So here lies the peculiar nature of the HK situation. It is very different from the circumstances of colonies which were evolving towards independence. There the direction and pace of constitutional change are to be worked out by the colonial ruler together with the evolving political forces within the colony itself. The HK situation is characterised by the complex interaction of three forces – the British government, the Chinese government, and the domestic political forces within HK. Or some analysts would say there are 4 forces (distinguishing between the British government in London and the Hong Kong government).

The complexity and delicacy of the situation is further highlighted by the fact that there are constraints on the powers of each of these forces, and that the relative strength of these forces will change in the course of time. Consider for example the China factor. The constraints on the PRC government in its HK policy are the need to preserve stability, prosperity and confidence in HK, and the binding force of the JD. The closer HK is to 1997, the more powerful this factor will be. In fact, as far as constitutional change in HK is concerned, the China factor will probably become predominant as from 1990, because in this year the Basic Law will be promulgated. The Basic Law will resolve the existing uncertainty concerning the future political system which will arise from the JD. For example, the JD says that the SAR legislature will be elected, but says nothing about the franchise or the mode of election. It says that the chief executive will be selected by election or through consultation, but does not define any of these methods. The relationship between the executive and legislative branches of the SAR government is also left uncertain. All these grey areas are expected to be clarified when the Basic Law comes out.

So after 1990, HK's system of government will have to be gradually reformed and transformed into the model prescribed in the Basic Law, so as to preserve continuity and maintain stability before and after 1997. And as provided in the JD, the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group will discuss the procedures to be adopted for the smooth transition in 1997. It is obvious that one of the essential ingredients of a smooth transition is the gradual introduction, in the years preceding 1997, of the model of government which the Basic Law prescribes for 1997. Therefore, although from the formal, legal point of view, the Basic Law will only come into force on the establishment of the HKSAR on July 1, 1997, it will serve as a guide for transitional constitutional development once its is enacted in 1990.

So much for the post-1990 situation. What about the position before 1990? Should the existing constitution of HK be further democratised before 1990? In particular, when the term of office of existing Legislative Councillors expires in 1988, should a new mode of election, such as direct election on a broad franchise, be introduced for at least some of the seats in the legislature? This has become an extremely controversial and hotly debated issue in the last few months.

The position of the Chinese government on this question is quite clear. Various senior Chinese officials have expressed their views, and the more detailed thinking of the Chinese side has been reflected in articles written by writers who are close to PRC authorities. The PRC attitude is basically that no fundamental constitutional change should be introduced in HK before the promulgation of the Basic Law, and direct election to the legislature is an example of a fundamental change. In short, China seems to be opposed to direct election in 1988, although she is not necessarily opposed to direct

election in 1997, which is an issue to be decided by the Basic Law. Different views on this issue are still held among members of the Basic Law Drafting Committee, and a consensus has yet to be worked out.

Assuming that this summary of the Chinese standpoint is correct, the question arises as to why China opposes direct election in 1988. In this regard, I think the following factors should be taken into consideration. First, the Chinese government seems to take the view that the determination of the future constitutional structure of the HKSAR is an exercise of Chinese sovereignty over HK, and any interference with the determination is an infringement of such sovereignty. In particular, the introduction of new features into HK's existing constitutional structure (such as direct elections to the legislature) by the British HK government can have the effect of pre-empting issues to be decided by the Basic Law, or achieving a *fait accompli* to be forced on China. For example, if direct election is introduced in 1988, it would be practically difficult (though not theoretically impossible) for China to reverse the trend and rule out direct election in the Basic Law. It is therefore argued that although the JD provides that in the pre-1997 transition the British government "will be responsible for the administration of HK with the object of maintaining and preserving its economic prosperity and social stability", this provision does not empower the British government to introduce major constitutional changes in HK unilaterally. In its more extreme form, the argument is that it is a violation of the JD for the British government to introduce such constitutional change and to fetter China's freedom to decide the future form of HK's government through the Basic Law.

What is the joke?

The second reason for China's opposition to HK's constitutional reform is China's suspicion of Britain's motivation. Writings reflecting the Chinese point of view often point out that during a period of over 140 years of British colonial rule in HK, Britain had not introduced any system of democratic or representative government in HK, and despite this HK has prospered. Why then the haste in setting into motion the development of representative government immediately after the agreement to return HK to China? China suspects that there might be a conspiracy to establish a political system in HK which is favourable to British interests. It is also pointed out that even if the objective of the reform is to transfer power to the people of HK, this is objectionable because the JD requires Britain to transfer power, not directly to the people of HK, but to the PRC government, and it is up to the PRC government to delegate its power of ruling HK to the SAR government in such form and manner as decided by the PRC central government.

Thirdly, from a strategic or practical point of view, it is also in China's interests to retain the right to decide on the exact mode and procedure of direct election (assuming that this is to be introduced in future) by preventing the British HK government from introducing it first. For once a particular mode of it is introduced, pressures against any fundamental alteration of that mode might be built up.

Finally, the timing of direct elections may also affect the balance of powers in the transitional stage. Directly elected legislative councillors are politically fairly powerful, and they may form a fairly effective opposition towards Chinese influence in HK's politics. On the other hand, if direct election is postponed until a later time, when Chinese influence in HK is such that pro-China forces can win a significant number of directly elected seats, then such risks would be reduced.

After examining the Chinese viewpoint, let us now turn to the position of the British government, including the HK government. Here there has been a dramatic change during the last few years. In the early period immediately following the signing of the JD, they had ambitious plans for constitutional reform and the development of self government in HK. In fact, in July 1984, two months before the publication of the JD, the HK government already published the first Green Paper on the development of representative government in HK, outlining possible reforms for the period 1985-1991. After a period of consultation, the official policy was set out in the White Paper of November 1984, and it was pursuant to this White Paper that the first election (on the basis of functional constituencies and electoral colleges) to the legislature was introduced in 1985. The White Paper also promised a review of the system in 1987 to decide matters such as whether direct election to the legislature was to be introduced in 1988. This, then, is the background to the publication of the recent Green Paper ("the 1987 review of developments in representative government") of May 1987.

It seems that originally the British objective was to build up a system of representative government in HK in a process similar to that used in the decolonisation of other colonies. Thus in 1984 and 1985, senior officials and councillors started talking about various ways of establishing representative government, such as the ministerial system and the "committee system". In 1985, the powers of the local legislature were consolidated under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance. As I explained just now, the Chinese government viewed these developments with suspicion and distrust. In late 1985, the Director of the HK branch of the New China News Agency, who was the highest Chinese official stationed in HK, publicly commented that there existed a tendency to violate the JD. This was understood to refer to the British attempt to introduce fundamental constitutional change in HK before the enactment of the Basic Law. In the meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group in November 1985, the issue of political reform in HK was directly discussed. Various meetings between foreign ministery official of China and Britain also took place in 1986, and it began to emerge that Britain had been persuaded to accept the Chinese requirement that constitutional change in HK must "converge" with the Basic Law. This theory of convergence is now well-known. It means that the British government will not introduce fundamental reforms in HK's system of government which might render it incompatible with the system to be prescribed in the Basic Law.

Where, however, will this theory of convergence lead us to? Does it forbid changes of any kind in HK's political system before the publication of the Basic Law? Or does it only prohibit fundamental changes? If so, what changes are fundamental, and what are not? Today we cannot find any clear and definite answers to these questions. As far as the British HK government is concerned, it has decided to pass the ball to the people of HK. Thus unlike the 1984 Green Paper on representative government, the 1987 Green Paper does not propose any definite direction for HK to follow. It merely sets out various options from which HK people may choose, such as direct election in 1988, direct election at some later point in time, or no direct election at all. And the people of HK are now encouraged to voice their opinion on these options. The HK government has set up a Survey Office to monitor public opinion on the Green Paper. It has also commissioned a private company to conduct opinion polls on the matter. And the government promised that the final decision on whether, and, if so, what changes in the constitutional structure are to be introduced in 1988 will be made in the light of public opinion in HK.

The deadline for the period of consultation on the Green Paper has been set at Sept 30, 1987. It is therefore expected that there will be a war of public opinion this summer. This is because public opinion in HK is now polarised into two main divisions – those who are in favour of direct election

to a portion of seats in the legislature in 1988, and those who are against this idea.

So let us first look at the arguments of those who advocate direct election in 1988. They believe that Western-style democracy should be introduced in HK, both because it is an end in itself and because it can help to forestall Chinese interference with HK's autonomy after 1997. Their argument runs as follows. If direct election is something good and desirable, why should we postpone it? There is no point in deferring the decision until the publication of the Basic Law, because the Chinese authorities have promised that they too will consult HK people when drafting the Basic Law. If public opinion in HK is in favour of direct election, then the Basic Law will surely provide for direct election. If this is so, the introduction direct election in 1988 would not be incompatible with the Basic Law. On the contrary, early introduction of this mode of election can help HK people to gain more experience in democratic practice in preparation for the promised autonomy after 1997.

Another factor in the minds of the democracy activists is that 1988 is the last chance for the British HK government to introduce constitutional reform in HK, because once the Basic Law is published, every development will have to be in accordance with the Basic Law and there will be no more room for manoeuvre. This point is particularly significant for those who distrust the Chinese government and have reservations as to whether it is sincere in granting democratic self rule to HK. It is feared that the Basic Law will at most provide for a pseudo democracy, and the only way to obtain real democracy for HK is to institutionalise it while HK is still under British control.

What about the position of those who oppose direct election in 1988? Their public stand nowadays is usually that they are not opposed to direct election at some point in HK's development (such as 1991), but they do not think 1988 is the appropriate time. Some suggest that it is better to wait until the promulgation of the Basic Law, so as to ensure convergence with the Basic Law. Others note that China is opposed to direct election in 1988 (though not to this mode of election at some future time) and believe that it is not in HK's interests to force a confrontation with China on this issue. Still others point out that conditions in HK are not yet ripe for direct election. The percentage of registered voters and and vote turnout rate in previous elections are still low; HK people have a tradition of apathy to politics; civic consciousness has not developed sufficiently. Finally, most of those who are against direct election in 1988 also have reservations about direct election as a matter of principle. While they do not oppose it absolutely because they do not want to be seen as anti-democratic, they believe that the directly

elected element in HK's future government system should be minimised. Basically, their view is that the unique circumstances of HK are such that it is dangerous to practise Western style democracy on a full scale. There are just too many risks. Firstly, they are afraid that democratisation will lead to rising demands for redistribution of wealth, increased welfare provision, raising of tax rates, all of which will discourage investment and lead to economic decline. And if HK really ceases to be economically viable for China, then the whole rationale for its privileged treatment under the concept of "one country, two systems" will disappear. Secondly, they feel that direct election will lead to the rise of adversarial or confrontational politics, thus generating social conflicts. Thirdly, it is also feared that increased politicization will produce opportunities for anti-communist elements in HK to pursue activities which China may not tolerate. Therefore, the more democratic HK is, the greater is the risk of a direct Chinese intervention if things go out of control.

And so the debate goes on, and it is still not clear which side will win at the end of the day. But perhaps there will be no winners and everybody will be losers. Confidence in HK's future has always been fragile, and in the last few years, more and more HK people, particularly professionals and businessmen, are emigrating or applying for emigration overseas. The controversies and debates about HK's constitutional development have not inspired confidence. My feeling is that HK people are caring less and less about things like the development of representative government and the drafting of the Basic Law. Personally I do not believe that a high degree of genuine democracy in the form of mass electoral politics on the centre of powers will ever be institutionalised in HK. HK has never practised this and it is unlikely that it will be in the foreseeable future introduced under the Basic Law. But this does not mean that I am pessimistic about the future of HK. I think provided that the present pragmatic policies of the Chinese government continue to be followed and developed, HK's capitalist economic system will be preserved, and the concept of "one country, two systems" will be practised in the economic sphere. HK's economy can thus continue to prosper. But I think it would be too idealistic to expect "one country, two systems" to include the co-existence of a centralised socialist authority and a liberal democratic policy. It is important to see where the limits lie, and it is only in the light of these limitations that one is able to judge what is in the best interests of HK.

Of Hornet, Roses and Other Feathers

by

Georges M. Halpern
University of California Davis School of Medicine

The First Allergic

"Good news is no news" so the journalists/reporters say. But not long after the invention of writing the scribes register a triumph, providing us with the name and address of a man who, with a fair degree of probability, is the earliest allergic subject known to history: King Menes of Memphis.

He seems to have lived for over eighty years. Given the appalling state of Ancient Egyptian health as described by the palaeo-pathologists, that in itself was quite an achievement. And Menes did not merely survive – he packed a great deal of solid achievement into his lifetime. While still only a lad he brought off a military triumph by uniting his native kingdom of Upper Egypt with the more sophisticated and advanced land of the Nile Delta. Then, in a stroke of clear-eyed political genius that is still admired today, he chose the point of intersection of the Nile with the old borderline as the site of the capital from which he proposed to rule the new, unified Kingdom of Egypt. But the Nile was somewhat in the way, so he had a new channel dug and made the river move over. Then he built the splendid city of Memphis. After that, Egypt went from strength to strength. Menes has gone down in history in a position of special honour: the First King of the First Dynasty.

The circumstances surrounding the King's death are controversial. He was killed, says tradition, by a "kheb". Egyptologists who can leave us standing when it comes to speed-reading hieroglyphics have gone on record to the effect that Menes was killed by a "great wasp". Surviving inscriptions concerning Menes end with a pictograph that looks very much like a hornet.

Equally intriguing is the ancient belief, endorsed by reputable scholars, that Menes met his end on a voyage to the "Western Isles". Some even go so far as to state that the scene of his death was Britain! The American allergist R. Michael Sly quotes this tradition in his "Pediatric Allergy".

As to when it all happened, you can take your choice of any year from about 3300 to 2640 B.C. Recorded history, which sometimes needs a tolerance of two years either way in dating an occurrence at the beginning of our own century, often requires several hundred years of leeway at a remove of five millennia.

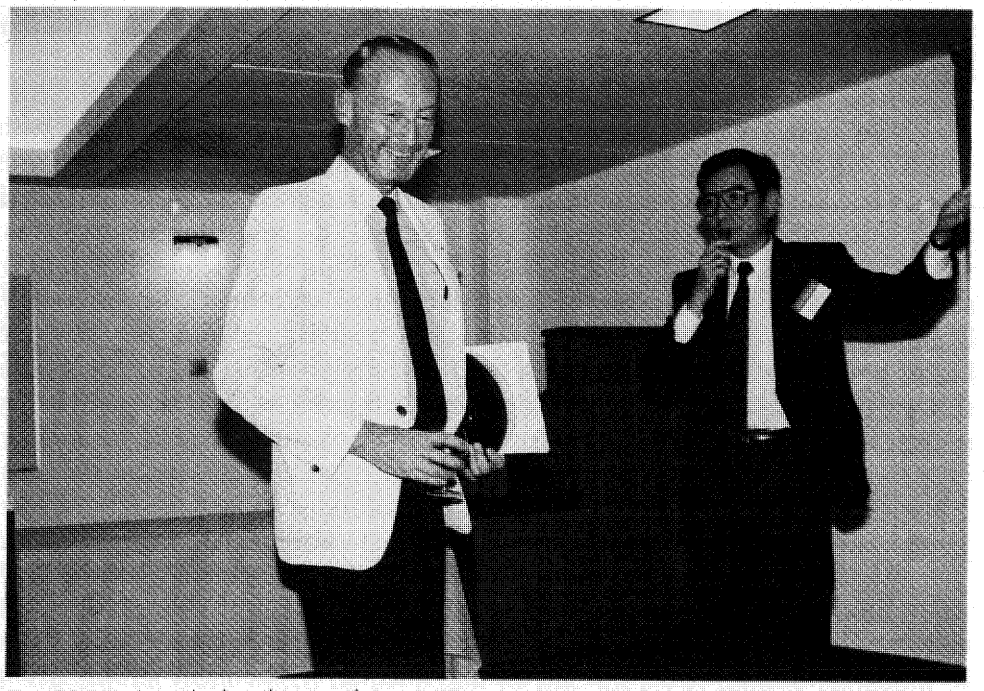
What could Menes have been doing in Britain fifty centuries ago, long before Stonehenge was even on the drawing board? Our own guess is that he was trying to secure a supply of tin. Some of his enemies had it, and their bronze swords were superior to the copper weapons that the Egyptains were

still using. Percipient statesmen have always been ready to undertake arduous journeys in quest of strategic materials.

Next time you settle into the dentist's chair, and need something with which to divert your mind, try speculating on what might have happened if Menes had survived to return from Cornwall with a good cargo of tin. If ever there was a non-event that "could have changed the course of history", that was it. But a blithe and boisterous hornet, carrying an 0.1 millilitre shot of sensitizing antigens backed up by histamine, serotonin, acetylcholine, hyaluronidase, lecithinase, phospholipase A and B, mellitin and assorted kinins and peptides at the ready in its tail, came zooming out of the woods and pastures of England to assassinate an allergic Pharaoh and keep history on its fated path.

Shen Nung and the Pen Tsao

At this point we can take a break from Egypt to see what was going on in another ancient centre of civilization. Shen Nung was one of the three emperors of the earliest period in Chinese history. He is traditionally dated to the 28th century B.C., but chronology has never been one of the strong points of the Chinese, and dates in their remote past are even more hazy than in the case of Egypt. By all accounts Shen Nung was a remarkable personage. He was born with the head of a bull, but it must have transmuted itself into something reasonably human by the time he had become emperor and was ready to have his portrait painted. It took him only three days to learn to speak, and four days later he could walk as well. At the age of three years he ploughed his fields. A man who got off to such a flying start could obviously pack a great deal into his life, and Shen Nung, besides inventing the cart and the plough, taming the ox, yoking the horse, pioneering the clearing of land by fire and teaching his people the arts of agriculture, found time to put together a catalogue of 365 medicinal plants, which for thousands of years remained the fountainhead and foundation of Chinese pharmacology. Scholars tend to regard him as a mythological figure, and it may be that he was an amalgam of many prominent and gifted men. But someone or other must have been the originator of all that ancient lore on herbs and their uses.



The Master introducing the speaker

The Shen Nung Pen Tsao, as the emperor's compilation was called, was successively expanded and systematised by later herbalists. It contained a great deal that was merely fanciful, but among the dross were nuggets of truth that are to be found today in every Western pharmacopoeia. The most celebrated case in point is of course that of ephedrine, a drug that sounds ultra-modern but is in fact of hoary antiquity. It was prepared from shrubs of the genus Ephedra, the Chinese joint-fir. According to some sources these plants were known in Ancient China as *ma huang;* others hold that Ma Huang was a physician who added it to Shen Nung's pharmacopoeia a thousand years or so after the emperor's time. Perhaps both stories are true; Ma Huang may have adopted the name of the plant that had made his fortune. Ephedrine can now be synthesized, but the drug is still extracted from the stems and leaves of the *ma huang,* which is nowadays cultivated in India as well as China. Extraction using the methods of modern technology was first carried out by Nagai, a Japanese scientist, as far back as 1887, but only in the 1920s did ephedrine come into more general use in Europe and America for the treatment of asthma and bronchitis. Western doctors soon came to rely heavily upon it, yet they continued to look down on Chinese medicine for decades after it had presented them with such a precious gift.

The fact that Doctor Ma Huang's name has come down to us over the span of four or five thousand years suggests that asthma was already causing much distress among the Chinese in those distant days.

Royal Strawberries

Our Next Allergic was King Richard III of England

The original source of our information was no less than Sir Thomas More (1478-1535). He was not a physician, but he was the most noted lawyer of his day and a man whose reputation for courage, levelheadedness and integrity has endured down to our own time.

Though allergy is a curse and an affliction, some sufferers from it have turned it to account for their own ends. It is said that asthmatic witnesses in Roman courts were exempt from examination under torture, since it was known even then that fear could throw them into paroxysms that prevented them from saying anything at all. According to More, King Richard was allergic to strawberries, and he made unscrupulous use of this circumstance to encompass the judicial murder of a nobleman who was in his bad books. This took place at a session of the Privy Council in 1483. Richard apparently knew that eating strawberries caused a rash to appear on his arms. He summarily suspended the proceedings of the Council and called for a bowl of strawberries by way of refreshment. An hour or so later he reconvened the meeting and created consternation among the assembled lords by dramatically uncovering one of his arms and displaying the sinister alteration that had taken place in his skin. While the councillors of state were still in confusion he pointed an accusing finger at the man who had incurred his disfavour and charged him with witchcraft. A sorcerer capable of putting an evil spell on the sacred person of the Sovereign was obviously a source of dire peril to the realm; no time could be wasted on due process – the King was the Law, and he promptly ordered the unfortunate victim out to his execution.

More was not an eye-witness of these events - he was a historian writing from what sources he could find, but we feel that his story carries conviction. It is very hard to believe that More the devoted jurist, More the upright public servant who went to his death rather than compromise his principles, would have borne false witness. It may be that he was swayed by the dastardly reputation that the last of the Plantagenets had among the first Tudors and that he was ready to seize upon almost any stick with which to beat such a dog, but we cannot envisage him fabricating charges out of thin air. His sources may well have been less scrupulous of course, but it is inherently improbable that one of the Lords of the Council in 1483, however, slanderous his intent, would have concocted a calumny built round a reaction to strawberries. Hardly anyone at that time, even in the medical fraternity, had the necessary knowledge of allergic urticaria to get things right in such a detail as the incubation time which Richard allowed for the rash to appear. Most physicians would have been disinclined to believe that gorging on strawberries could have any ill-effects beyond a mild stomach-ache.

At all events, More's report, which was presumably among Shakespeare's sources, puts it beyond doubt that there were people in the 15th and 16th centuries – among them either King Richard or some mendacious enemy of his – who knew that in occasional case there could actually be a casual relationship – unlikely as it might sound – between the eating of strawberries and the development of skin eruptions. Medicine had made its painful way back up to the point that Hippocrates had reached in his observations of cheese-allergy. But these first faint inklings of allergic mechanisms were far from being common knowledge – even among the most eminent physicians – as is shown by the intriguing case of the Archbishop of St. Andrew's in 1552.

Triumph of a Consultant

From the standpoint of the historical researcher the account of the Archbishop's asthma is a winner. By what looks like entirely false reasoning the attending physician managed to identify the cause of the trouble, and with the simple facts thus preserved for posterity the whole thing becomes an open-and-shut case to the modern allergist. The story is also remarkable for what it has to tell us about internationalism in the sixteenth century. Even today, when no city in Europe need be more than a day's journey from any other, it cannot happen often that a patient in Scotland sends for a doctor from Italy. Yet that is what Archbishop John Hamilton did, over four centuries ago. He had long suffered from severe asthma, which had defied cure by all the doctors within comparatively easy reach. But the Archbishop did not give up. Somewhere in Europe, he felt sure, was the man who could bring him relief. The reputation of Jerome Cardan, of Pavia, was such that it had penetrated all the way to distant St. Andrew's. He was if anything even more celebrated as a mathematician than as a physician, and his name is still familiar to every engineer; he elucidated the functioning of the cardan joint and is often erroneously credited with inventing it. To this man Hamilton sent a message, asking whether he would take the case. Cardan accepted, which says a lot about the exclusiveness of medical services in those days. To be doctored was a prerogative of the great; the common man who was ill had to grin and bear it, or at best seek the advice of the local wise woman. Attending the Archbishop must have absorbed the best part of a year of Cardan's time, with the travelling included.

Having reached St. Andrew's the learned doctor confined himself for over a month to the painstaking observation of his patient. The conclusion he came to was that the prelate's brain had become overheated and dessicated – an opinion that went dead against the findings of Hamilton's previous doctors, who thought his brain had got cold and damp. A complete reversal of treatment was thus called for. The Archbishop's diet was cut

down to two frugal meals a day and he was ordered to get regular daily exercise in the fresh air. Golf would no doubt have been ideal for him, but the Royal and Ancient course that has since brought St. Andrew's world fame still lay in the future. In any case, golf was not yet respectable, and it is probable that the Archbishop was more concerned to suppress it than to indulge in it. A round on the links could land a man in prison in 1552 – or even on the scaffold if the offense had been committed during the hours of Sunday service. But even if the Archbishop was spared anything so frivolous and sinful as golf, he did not get off lightly, for the regime prescribed by Dr. Cardan included something almost equally hair-raising: the patient was ordered to take a shower every day, which must have strained the resources of the episcopal palace near to breaking-point. Startling as all this was, Hamilton must have thought that the weirdest thing of all was when the Italian consultant told him to get rid of his feather quilt and pillows and sleep under a coverlet of unspun silk with his head resting on straw-filled linen pillows. Feathers, said Cardan, were liable to cause undue heating of the spine.

It is hard for us not to feel a sense of disappointment over this explanation. Cardan was doing so well, and putting together a thoroughly enlightened set of instructions for his patient – and then comes this sudden lapse into rank fancy. But he deserves our respect even so – he must have had his eyes wide open and his mathematician's deductive powers fully engaged in order to spot the interesting fact that the Archbishop's distress increased every night as soon as he went to bed. Did Carden, one day towards the end of that month's observation, catch His Grace fresh from the shower and put him in a chair with a feather cushion as headrest, just to see what would happen? Our surmise is that he established to his own satisfaction that bedding feathers, in some mysterious way, were the root of the evil, and from there it was a small step to the conclusion that getting rid of them would eliminate the problem. Perhaps the Archbishop found this a bit far-fetched and asked for an explanation – and Cardan gave him one that would sound plausible to the sixteenth-century mind. Correct or not – it made no difference so long as it induced the patient to change his bedding.

The treatment was a signal success, and Hamilton's asthma disappeared as if by magic. Cardan returned to Pavia richer by 1400 gold pieces and with a golden chain to wear round his neck. It was a handsome fee by any standards, but our view is that Cardan earned it fairly and squarely. Our only regret is that history does not record whether he effected any subsequent cures along similar lines. Asthmatics must have flocked to him once the report of his lucrative success became known, and after all that incisive thinking up at St. Andrew's he ought to have been able to get to grips with fresh cases in far less time.

Botallo and Rose-fever

It may be that the University of Pavia can lay claim to being the cradle of allergic diagnostics. Leonardo Botallo, a contemporary of Cardan's, took his doctorate there about 1533. His name appears in medical history in many connections and is attached to at least three components of our anatomy; most interesting to us is that Botallo is said to have been the first medical man to set down a clear description of what came to be known as "rose-fever". He had a patient who could not abide roses, since they caused his nose to itch intolerably, made him sneeze and gave him nasty headaches. But Botallo may have been beaten to it by a Portuguese-Jewish physician who had several names to choose from, of which we have settled for Juan Rodriguez. He gave an account of a monk, apparently not one of his own patients, for whom every summer was a time of trial. He found the scent of roses positively unpleasant, a clue which his doctors seized upon. They gave him the only possible advice, which was to shut himself up in his quarters until the roses had finished blooming.

However, rose-fever was recognized ever before the doctors began to write about it. It seems, indeed, to have been something of an occupational disease in ecclesiastical circles. A Roman Cardinal, Olivieri Caraffa, who died about 1511, went to the length of posting guards outside his palace with orders to send away any visitor who was ill-advised enough to turn up with a bunch of roses. We have this on the authority of the learned Valerianus, who also mentions Petrus Melinus, another Roman notable, as a victim of rose-fever. Alphons Khoni, who was suspected of having had an over-lively imagination, gave a harrowing account of a case in which rose-fever even had fatal results. It seems that a mother-to-be was given a bouquet of roses. To show her appreciation, she buried her nose in it – as most of us do. Most of us survive the gesture, but the unfortunate lady of the tale promptly collapsed, gave birth to a stillborn child, and then died herself. It sounds rather an extreme case, but many mothers – and not a few fathers – will testify that reactions to tastes and odors undergo surprising changes, in both directions, during the months of pregnancy.

The Concept of Anaphylaxis

The French scientist Charles Richet discovered in 1898 that eel-blood serum injected into dogs was poisonous to them. If a series of injections was given the effects became much more virulent and more disastrous to the test animal. Instead of building up an acquired protection the dog had become more susceptible to the poison.

What a feast

Only after some years did Richet get a firmer grip on the phenomenon. In 1902-03 he went on a tropical cruise with the Prince of Monaco. To keep himself occupied he made a study of a poisonous jellyfish, the Portuguese man-of-war, the sting of which is exceedingly painful and sometimes fatal, and causes the body to swell up. Richet tried to make dogs immune to the poison by the method of Mithridates – administration of repeated small doses, which was known to work with many other poisons. One of the test-subjects was "a fine big dog by the name of Neptunus". Twenty-two days after his first injection he was given a second shot, this time one-tenth of a fatal dose. Within a few seconds the animal became extremely ill, began to stagger and soon fell dead. Richet was aghast – this was something he had not expected. He had set out to demonstrate that living beings could be immunized against poisons. He at once embarked upon a new series of experiments in search of an explanation for the death of Neptunus.

He was ready with his results in 1903, and his findings can be summarized as follows: a substance that is moderately toxic when first injected may produce far more serious symptoms and even death when injected a second time. This new phenomenon may be described as the antithesis of prophylaxis: instead of gaining protection the subject has lost much of what protection he already had, and Richet therefore proposed the term *anaphylaxis,* and we still use it today, although it is strictly speaking a misnomer – aphylaxis or antiphylaxis would have been preferable.

Richet was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1913. He was a fascinating personality and something of a latter-day Leonardo Da Vinci, gaining distinction not only in medical research but also in many other spheres; he wrote poems, novels and plays, won fame as a pioneer of aviation and was in the forefront of the work for world peace.

The Definition of Allergy

Two pediatricians, the Austrian Clemens von Pirquet, who for a short time was a professor at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and the Hungarian-born Bela Schick, who later took U.S. citizenship, were working on diphtheria toxin. They had noticed that patients who were given diphtheria antitoxin sometimes developed other symptoms: fever, swollen glands, extensive nettlerash .... and occasionally a patient even died of the effects. On inquiring more closely into the matter they found that it was not the antitoxin that the patients reacted to but horse serum they were using as the vehicle to carry it.

To designate this "altered reaction" Von Pirquet borrowed the Greek words "allos", meaning different or changed, and "ergos", meaning work or action, and put them together to form the new term "allergy". The way the injected substance "worked" in the body, i.e. the reaction it produced, had been changed in some way or other. Von Pirqeut suspected that the cause might be an antigen/antibody reaction.

In 1906 Von Pirquet enlarged his concept to take in all the changes in the manner of the body's reactions that arise after a disease or after treatment with foreign substances. The term "allergy" thus came to embrace a multiplicity of phenomena, among them the acquired immunity whereby a large number of infectious diseases are prevented from attacking a victim more than once in a lifetime. This greatly widened coverage made the concept of allergy somewhat unwieldy.

The American researchers A.F. Coca and R.A. Cooke – the latter an asthmatic – reduced the concept of allergy to more manageable proportions when in 1923 they proposed the term "atopy" for those clinical forms of allergy in which it was possible to demonstrate a common hereditary influence co-inciding with the presence in the serum of special antibodies which they called reagins. The German physician Alfred Wolf-Eisner had pointed out as far back as 1906 that hay-fever should be seen as an allergic disease – a human anaphylaxis, and in 1910 Meltzer suggested that genuine asthma in human beings and anaphylaxis in laboratory animals were identical reactions.

In Meltzer's opinion, an asthmatic is a patient who has become sensitized to a particular substance, such as danders from a dog or a cat, so that an attack of asthma is brought on every time he comes into contact with that substance. Only minute quantities of the substance are needed to trigger the attack.

The Present

Now we know that IgE antibodies, mast cells and their mediators, recruited cells and their cytokines, interleukins and gamma interferon, indeed the whole immune system impinging on the central nervous and endocrine ones, are responsible for these "altered reactions". But until we uncover, sequence, reconstruct the human genome, we shall have to wait and watch the symptoms occur. This unique combination of genetic complex predisposition, advanced alarm inflammatory reactions, exposure to presumably innocent components of our close environment still poses challenges to the mind. The fragility of our immune system can go both ways: devastated by the AIDS viruses, or amok in allergy. Wisdom, observation, resilience, and a lot of luck in serendipity pave the way to THE FUTURE.

Chemistry in Cambridge – 1702 and onwards

by

R.A. Raphael
Cambridge University, England

The speaker, looking very serious

Abstract

The University Chemical Laboratory in Cambridge occupies an imposing site brought into being in 1956 by the forceful direction of Lord Todd. The international repute of the Department of Chemistry in almost every aspect of the subject is acknowledged to be among the highest (it numbers at present eleven Fellows of the Royal Society among its staff). This achievement originates from the establishment in 1702 by the University of Cambridge of the first Professorship of Chemistry in Britain.

One of the most interesting holders of this 1702 Chair was Richard Watson who was appointed in 1764. After his death in 1816 his son published a detailed account of his father's life containing fascinating vignettes of academic, religious and governmental politics of the day. Watson's background of theology, classics and mathematics at Cambridge did not deter his candidacy for the 1702 Chemistry Chair and he was duly appointed at the age of 27. As he frankly recorded "At the time this honour was conferred upon me, I knew nothing at all of Chemistry, had never read a syllable on the subject; nor seen a single experiment in it" (the qualification requirements are rather more demanding these days!). However he devoted

himself intensely to the demands of his new discipline and ".... in fourteen months from my election, I read a course of chemical lectures to a very full audience"

During his tenure he compiled five chemistry textbooks which were repeatedly reprinted. He early appreciated the importance of adequate chemical education and was not discouraged by the University's refusal to allow him an annual stipend of £100 for this purpose. He enlisted the support of a friendly Member of Parliament who succeeded in guiding through the Houses of Parliament an edict granting Watson the required funds.

In 1771 the most prestigious chair in Cambridge became vacant – the Regius Chair of Divinity – and Watson was determined to be a candidate. However the University reasonably stipulated that applicants must possess either a B.D or a D.D and Watson had neither. "This puzzled me for a moment; I had only seven days to transact the business in; but by hard travelling and some adroitness I accomplished my purpose, obtained the King's mandate for a Doctor's degree, and was created a Doctor on the day previous to that appointed for the examination of the candidates". Such resourcefulness must have impressed the selection committee for he was duly appointed to the Chair of Divinity.

In this capacity he fought a fearless and outspoken battle against all the entrenched bureaucracies of the time – royal, political and religous. He strongly supported the American side in the War of Independence "I looked upon the American war as unjust in its commencement, and that its conclusion would be unfavourable to this kingdom" and he elaborated this point in his University sermons; this did not endear him to royal and political circles.

This revolutionary support did not extend to the French Revolution "He did not say that France was the natural enemy of Great Britain; but he said more, he believed her to be the political enemy of the liberties of every state in Europe; in a word, he could not trust her."

He spoke strongly in favour of dissenter and Catholic emancipation and the consequent enmity of the religious hierarchy ensured that he was passed over when any bishopric became vacant. This was remedied when the government changed and he was made Bishop of Llandaff; the resulting seat in the House of Lords provided him with an even more public forum for his views and he availed himself of the opportunity with relish.

The personality of the man, his fearless advocacy, his scathing articulation of injustices come through vividly in the pages of his superbly written memoirs.

Confucius and Economic Growth

by

Geert Hofstede
University of Hawaii, Manoa

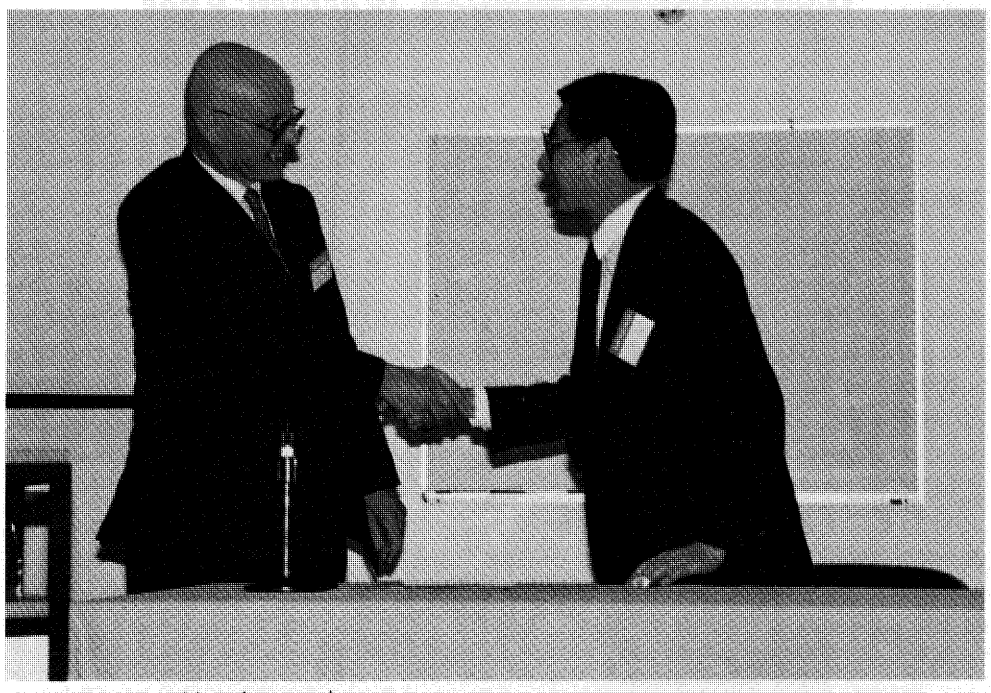
Abstract

Few economists predicted the fast economic rise of the East-Asian countries since 1965. In terms of economic growth, the Five Dragons (Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan), outperformed all other countries in the world over the past 25 years. U.S. futurologist Herman Kahn formulated the "Neo-Confucian Hypothesis", attributing the success of the Dragons to their common heritage of the teachings of Kong Ze (Confucius), who lived around 500 BC. Confucius' teachings cover four main areas: (1) the stability of society is based on unequal relationships between people; (2) the family is the prototype of all social organizations; (3) virtuous behaviour toward others is not treating others as one would not want to be treated oneself; and (4) virtue toward one's tasks in life consists of moderation, saving, persevering, hard work, patience and learning.

In a series of comparative studies in 64 national subsidiaries of the IBM Corporation, the author found value systems to differ between countries along four dimensions: Power Distance (unequal vs. equal), Individualism vs. Collectivism (alone vs. together), Masculinity vs. Femininity (tough vs. tender) and Uncertainty Avoidance (rigid vs. flexible). A survey of student groups in 10 countries around the Pacific, using a modified U.S. values questionnaire by Rokeach, confirmed the same four dimensions. Hong Kong psychologist Michael Bond, who had been involved in this last study, decided to eliminate a possible Western bias in the questionnaire by having a values survey developed by Chinese scholars from Hong Kong and Taiwan, in Chinese, This "Chinese Values Survey" (CVS) was subsequently answered in translations by student groups from 23 countries around the world. From the IBM dimensions the first three reappeared, but Uncertainty Avoidance did not. Instead, a new dimension was identified which Bond labelled "Confucian Dynamism".

Confucian Dynamism opposes two kinds of Confucian values. At the positive pole, strong dynamism, long-term oriented virtues are stressed, such as thrift and perseverance. At the opposite pole, weak dynamism, past- and present-oriented virtues are stressed, like the preservation of face and respecting social obligations. Students in East-Asian countries scored more long-term on this dimension, while those in Western, South-Asian and African countries scored more short-term.

From the IBM dimensions, none correlated with the countries' economic growth rate, but the scores not the dimension, Confucian Dynamism, strongly correlated with national economic growth over the past



The Master thanking the speaker

25 years. This proved Kahn's Neo-Confucian hypothesis and it specified *which* Confucian value made the difference.

The remarkable fact that research with Western questionnaires produced a fourth dimension "Uncertainty Avoidance" but research with an Eastern questionnaire produced another dimension "Confucian Dynamism", from answers coming from the same respondent populations, can be explained by differences in Eastern vs. Western thinking. Western thinking is concerned with Truth (knowing what is certain), while Eastern thinking is concerned with Virtue (knowing how to live). It took an Eastern questionnaire, the CVS, to detect the value complex which explains the economic success of the East-Asian countries.

Literature: Geert Hofstede and Michael Harris Bond, "The Confucius connection: From cultural roots to economic growth", in *Organizational Dynamics,* Vol. 16 No. 4, Spring 1988, p.4-21.
Also in Geert Hofstede, *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind,* London: McGraw Hill U.K., 1991.

Postscript to *Through Western Eyes*

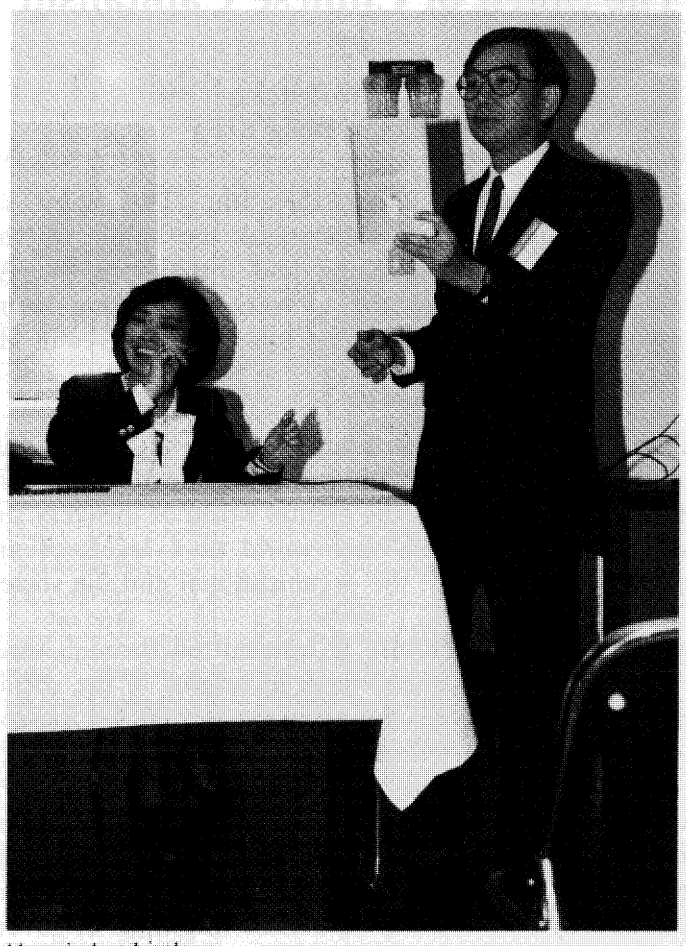
by

Mrs. Mimi Chan
University of Hong Kong

Abstract

I was invited to give a talk about one of my recent publications, a book entitled *Through Western Eyes: Images of Chinese Women in Anglo-American Literature* (Joint, 1989). When it first appeared I was surprised by the publicity it received. I had, after all, published before, on such riveting subjects as lexical borrowing and Medieval literature. All of a sudden, photographs, big and small, flattering and unflattering, appeared in the papers. The book is essentially an academic work of literary criticism. My RTHK talk show interviewer asked me in private why it was so heavily footnoted. But I like to think that there is a great deal in the work which is of general interest. It is the first of my books, monographs and articles to approach anything near popular writing. This is mainly because of the nature of the subject.

Did I expect to set out criteria of how authors should deal with Chinese women characters? By no means. I have no intellectual pretensions; academics research and publish, often without their work being read outside a very narrow circle, and I am certainly not prescriptive: it would be presumptuous and very foolish to suppose there is a magic way of dealing with Chinese women characters "correctly". I am just concerned that authors do not shape their characters through reference to racist preconceptions.



Here is her book

Many of my friends, science professors, engineers, businessmen – not to mention my family – have ploughed through the book loyally; for many of them it was the first book of literary criticism they had read. A science professor told me he had read my book and Darwin's *Origin of the Species* alternately during one stretch of time. He was astounded that literature is actually an academic discipline and that teachers of English literature actually did research and draw conclusions from reading a corpus of material. Earlier the Master yielded to persuasion and attended one of my conference papers and he too expressed astonishment that an "arts" person like myself actually did research. I am glad I have managed to convince at least two of my colleagues in more "useful" lines of work that we in the English Department are not a bunch of dilettante layabouts, talking vaguely about the sonnet.

The Spirit of Chinese Capitalism

by

Prof. S.G. Redding
University of Hong Kong

Abstract

The research conducted under the title 'The Spirit of Chinese Capitalism' was an attempt to understand the mind of the Chinese entrepreneur operating in Hong Kong and throughout the Asia Pacific region. It was conducted within the University of Hong Kong Business School and involved interviews with 72 Chinese executives in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia.

In addition to these interviews a large body of data were analysed about the practices of organizations which fall into category of Chinese family business. The diagram represents the mental world of this very successful set of businessman and it considers that world at 4 levels of analysis: the psychological, the psycho-social, the organizational and the societal.

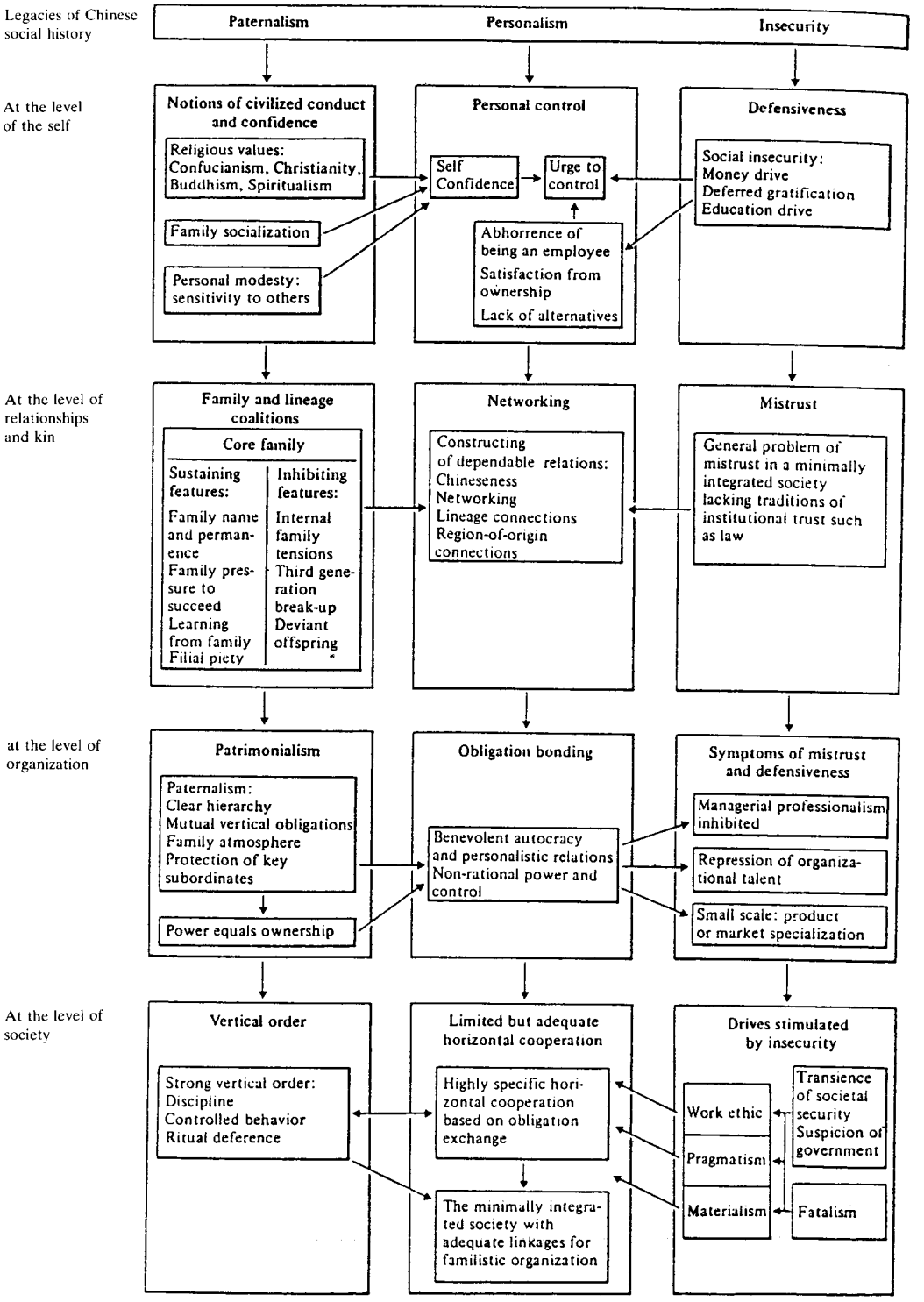
The impact of Chinese culture is transmitted through three principal forces each of which can be traced back to origins in the social history of China. These forces are given the names paternalism, personalism and insecurity.

The paternalism is largely evident in the workings of Confucian norms for the exercise of authority. The personalism is response to the need for constructing suitable relationships without the support systems of civil society, and insecurity is a result of autocratic traditions of government in a traditionally totalitarian society. These influences work through from the individual's becoming a member of a well defined culture with clear norms and values and are then exercised in the making of relationships, organizations, and a particular kind of society.

The research examined the way in which these connections operate and how they were explained by the businessmen concerned.

Thirsty business

The Spirit of Chinese Capitalism



ARTICLES FROM RESIDENTS

Pigeons and Their Whistles

by

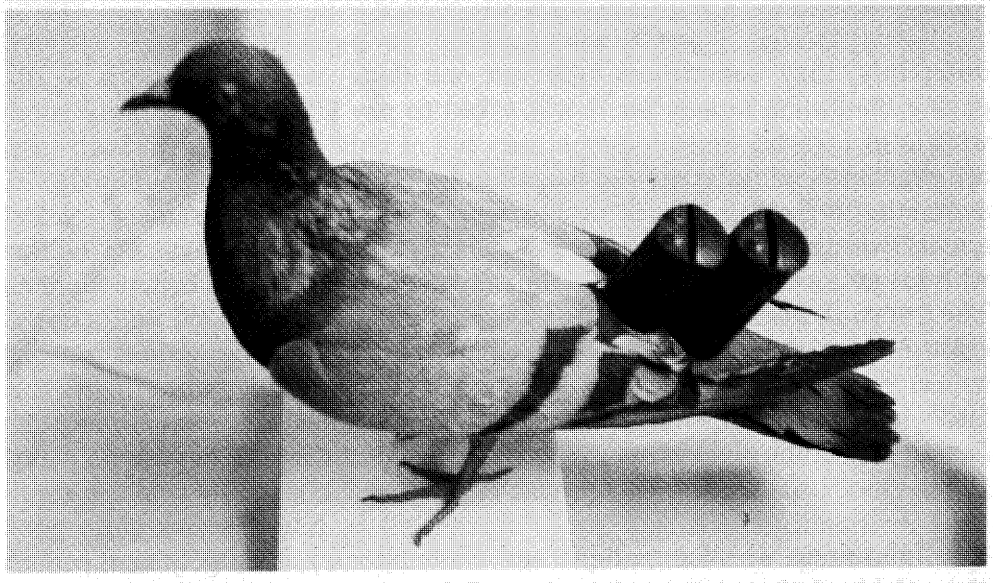
Ho Chui Mei

When John Gray was Anglican Archdeacon of Hong Kong in the mid-19th century, he noted that pigeons, apart from being table delicacies, played a second economic role:

> "Merchants in Hong Kong use them (pigeons) in conveying news of the arrival of the English, French or American mails to their partners in trade at Canton." (China 1878: 189).

Some of those merchants may have known that Zhang Jiuling, an 8th century official in Guangdong, was the first to use pigeons as postmen in South China. Of course, sending messages by pigeon is an old custom practiced in many parts of the world well before the 8th century. Even though Zhang is supposed to have learned the skill of training pigeons from Arab traders visiting Canton, it is also possible that Zhang's family, which came from North China, could have already been familiar with the idea.

Now that the citizens of Hong Kong have the Post Office and the Cable and Wireless Company, pigeons are no longer required as messengers. But pigeon flying as a sport has not died out; in many regions, though not in southern China, it is still very much a living hobby for those who admire the beauty and superb navigational skill of the bird. Pigeon fans are often keen on flight contests too; they are proud when their pets arrive sooner than competitors' pigeons in long-distance races.



Whistle-loaded pigeon

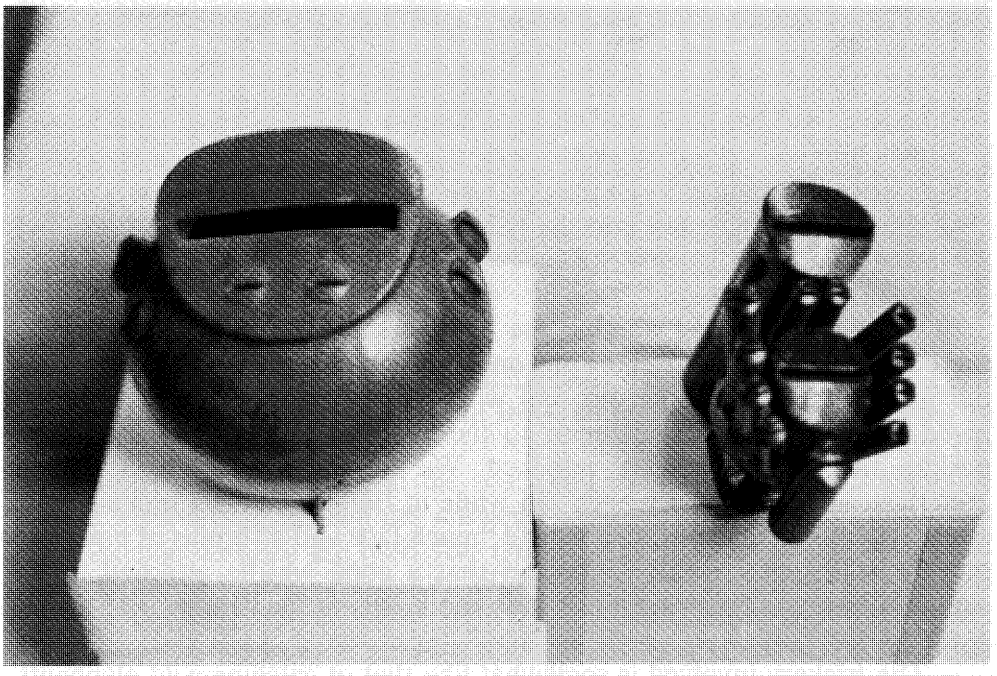
There are other way of enhancing the fun of pigeon flying, one of which is adding sound effects. Today among all the people in the world who fly pigeons, those of northern China and Java are the only ones who have established traditions of tying whistles to the tails of the birds, making music when the birds fly against the wind. However, the Chinese and Javanese have different attitudes about the whistles. The former treat them as musical instruments, enjoying the pleasant notes as the birds fly at leisure. The latter, on the other hand, think of whistles as tracking devices for racing pigeons: each bird can be followed by the distinctive note its whistle makes. Hence the designs of Chinese and Javanese whistles are quite different.

Pigeon whistles are (or were) used all over northern China: in Beijing Tianjin, Xian (Tuchman 1971), Huangzhong in Qinghai (Clark 1954: 23), Lanzhou and Urumuchi (Leonard 1942). The examples one can find today are mostly from Beijing. Pigeon fans there seem not to be satisfied with whistles producing only one note. A single Beijing whistle often has 3 or more ducts, and sometimes as many as 13, each of which produces a different note. The Manchu writer Fucha Dunchong (1906: 'Huaershi') remarks that some whistles can even produce a full octave. The weight and bulk of all the extra ducts must be considerable for the bird, even though the whistles are made of light materials such as dried gourd, bamboo and straw; some deep-toned whistles can have diameters as large as 12 centimeters. Perhaps that is why the Chinese usually attach the whistles to pigeons which will be flying leisurely near their loft. The Javanese, on the other hand, care more for the speed of the bird since the primarily concern is to win in flight contest. For that reason the Javanese whistles are designed not to slow the bird down; they are made of light wood and are small, streamlined and without additional ducts.

Even though the Chinese and the Javanese use pigeon whistles differently, they nonetheless agree on one thing: a good whistle is worth paying handsome money for. I was asked to pay US$3.50 for a fairly good whistle in Jakarta, while common ones sell at only US$3.50 each. Such toys are expensive, considering that a clerk in Indonesia makes only about US$70 a month. In Beijing, where one expects to pay about the same price for quality whistles, a clerk makes only US$20 a month. Really good Chinese whistles are not even available in the market; they have to be commissioned. The most desirable ones are of course antiques made by well known craftsmen of the past. These are circulated only among serious whistle collectors and pigeon fans. The noted expert Wang Xixian wrote that in the 1920s he paid five silver dollars for a pair of old whistles made by Yong the Junior, one of the eight acknowledged masters of the late Qing period (Wang 1989).

Interest in whistles, antique and contemporary, is largely confined to the world of the pigeon enthusiast. Otherwise they have received little

attention from the wider public. In China, this lack of public interest probably stems from the negative image of pigeon watchers as idlers who have nothing better to do. Indeed pigeon fans are mostly men. One can hardly find a single woman, in either China or Java, who knows enough to be an informant on the subject. Today the best place to see old Chinese whistles is in Beijing where Professor Wang Shixiang, a specialist in Chinese furniture and decorative arts, has a superb private collection. In the United States, both the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and the American Natural History Museum in New York have sizeable collections, assembled by the sinologist Berthold Laufer early this century.



Chinese pigeon whistles

When were whistles first used on pigeons? The Chinese were putting bells on them as early as the 10th century AD. Several poems of that period refer to the lovely sound made by the bells [zhong] of flying pigeons. The use of the word whistle [shao] in connection with pigeons goes back at least to the mid-11th century. In a battle between the northern kingdom of the Xixia and the Song empire, whistle-carrying pigeons helped to defeat the Song campaign. The clever Xixia, the story goes, left boxes containing pigeons by the roadside at a strategic point. When Song soldiers discovered the boxes, their general carelessly threw them open to see that was inside. The pigeons flew out, the whistles attached to them sounded, and the whereabouts of the Song army was exposed to the enemy (Song Shi, Xiaguozhuan). A 16th century record describes another relevant incident: a secret agent of a coup plot against the Emperor, about to be exposed at court, tried to release a

whistle-carrying pigeon whistle from his sleeve to warn his allies (Wang 1531). Perhaps Hoose (1938) was right in suggesting that pigeon whistles might have had a military origin. Since no whistles earlier than the 19th century survive, we cannot be sure if Song or Ming whistles looked like the ones we have nowadays.

Hong Kong and Canton seem to have been the only places in South China where pigeon whistles were used, as John Gray noted in the above quotation. He suggested that the sound of the whistle might have protected messenger pigeons from hawks and falcons. But not everyone agrees on this point. Berthold Laufer thought that a hungry hawk could not be put off so easily (1908). We find confirmation in the writing of Wang Xixian:

> "In the spring of 1934, I flew a well-trained pigeon [carrying a good whistle bought in 1922]. All of a sudden a hawk appeared. The pigeon made an emergency dive but landed by mistake in a water bucket belonging to a neighboring pigeon fancier. The pigeon was killed; the whistle fell into the hands of this enemy." (Wang 1989: 46)

Wang does not say whether the hawk belonged to his neighbour, but there is no question that Beijing pigeon enthusiasts often played similar tricks on one another. Since pigeons and whistles can be expensive and dearly loved, owners trusting such items to the air must be as nervous as those parking their expensive cars unlocked. We are told by Hoose (1938), an American who became a pigeon fan while in Beijing, that by tricking away one's neighbours' pigeons, one gained "much face and a surplus of birds that may be sold quite openly." He says that a good whistle attached to the captured bird was regarded as a handsome bonus to the captor.

The trickery involved is somewhat like that of catching wild elephants. A Beijingese sends out his most experienced birds after the relatively new pigeons of his neighbours, hoping that his own flock will bring back some confused friends. Hoose claims that sometimes even cross-bows were employed, if the whistle was considered more valuable than the bird itself. The loss was not considered as theft, and losers did not advertise their misfortune. To be able to retain one's pets and whistles was considered part of the game, and a proud owner would rather die than admit his loss.

Relatively little is known about the history of pigeon whistles in Java. The custom is not widely shared in other parts of Indonesia; only the Javanese and the nearby Madurese seem to be fond of it. Today whistles are made at Magelang and Prambanan in Java, as well as in Madura, and are sold at bird markets in Surabaya and Jakarta. Although the earliest known record is from the late 19th century (Kingsley 1888: 412), whistles may have been introduced long before then.

Javanese pigeon whistles

It is tempting, when comparing the Chinese and Javanese customs, to conclude that pigeon whistles are the result of cultural contacts between the two countries at some time in the past. Did the custom go from China to Java, or vice versa? No definite answer is possible yet. The Javanese cities where pigeon whistles are used also house many Indonesian Chinese, most of whom are of Fujianese ancestry. However, pigeon whistles seem never to have been used in Fujian, and modern Indonesian Chinese tend to think that the whistles are basically a Javanese pastime. Modern Javanese, on the other hand, are well aware that Chinese in China also use pigeon whistles. Before we can say for sure where the custom originated, many more whistles, especially old ones, will have to be collected and studied. Cantonese pigeon whistles might be a key to the problem, but they may have vanished completely. The author would be most interested to examine even one of the whistles that Archdeacon Gray saw in Hong Kong.

REFERENCES:

Clark, Leonard
1954 *The Marching Wing,* New York.
Fucha, Dunchong
1906 *Yinjing Suishiji.*
Gray, John Henry
1878 *China, A History of the Laws, Manners, and Customs of the People,* London.
Hoose, Harned Pettus

1938 *Peking Pigeons and Pigeon-Flutes,* College of Chinese Studies, California College in China, Beijing.

Kingsley, John Sterling

1888 *The Riverside Natural History,* Vol. VI, Boston.

Laufer, Berthold

1908 "Chinese Pigeon Whistles", *Scientific American,* No. 98.

Leonard, Royal

1942 *I Flew for China.*

Tuchman, Barbara

1971 *Stilwell and the American Experience in China 1911-1945,* New York.

Wang, Shixiang

1989 *Beijing Geshao,* Beijing.

Wang, Wensun

1531 *Longxing Ciji.*

The Art of Suggestiveness

by

John Wang

In the fall of 1990 and 1991 I had the good fortune of being twice invited as Visiting Professor in the Chinese Department of the University of Hong Kong. Both times I stayed at Robert Black College. Looking back, the days I spent at the University have to be ranked among the happiest and most carefree of my life. To my good hosts in the Department and the warm, friendly, and the extremely helpful staff at the College who made all this possible I dedicate the following piece.

One distinctive feature of Chinese culture, it seems to me, is the great value it attaches to what may be called the art of suggestiveness. "The Tao that can be talked about is not the constant Tao," so declares Lao-tzu (6th century B.C.) at the very beginning of the *Tao-te ching*. That is to say, the highest truth is something that cannot be presented directly, but only suggested or hinted at. When applied in the sphere of social life, this idea means never too much in anything we do or say. "A trickle of water (in contrast with a torrent) will run for a long time 細水常流 ," so goes a popular Chinese saying. Another popular saying states: "The friendship between two gentlemen tastes as light as water (but one never gets tired of it) while that between two petty people as thick as honey (with which one easily becomes satiated) 君子之交淡如水，小人之交甜如蜜 ." When applied in the sphere of aesthetics, the idea means that what is important is not how forthright or detailed an artist can be, but rather how much has been suggested through the details. The most admired painting very often is one in which the painter is able to depict a scene or capture a mood with just a few masterful strokes. The highly treasured writing is always that in which feelings and ideas are expressed in as few words as possible, or as indirectly as possible. As the Sung critic Yen yü 嚴羽 (fl. 1200), echoing Su Shih 蘇軾 (1037-1101) and Huang T'ing-chien 黃庭堅 (1045-1105), would say, "the number of words is limited, but the ideas it suggests are limitless 言有盡而意無窮 ."

This art of suggestiveness is perhaps nowhere better seen than in classical Chinese poetry, especially the so-called Quatrain 絕句 and Regulated Verse 律詩 varieties which flourished during the great T'ang Dynasty (618-907). The following seven-syllabic Quatrain by Tu Mu 杜牧 (803-852) as translated by Robert Payne in his anthology *The White Poney* (New York, 1960) is a good example:

Autumn Night	秋夕
Silver candles, autumn night, a cool screen,	銀燭秋光冷畫屏，
Soft silks, a tiny fan to catch the fireflies.	輕羅小扇撲流螢。
On the stone stairs the night breathes cool as water.	天階夜色涼如水，
I sit and watch the Herd Boy and the Weaving Girl.	臥看牽牛織女星。

The poem belongs to a category of poetry known as the Palace Poetry 宮詩. So called because it usually deals with the lives of the ladies residing in the palace. The court ladies were of course all young, beautiful, and unmarried. And once they were chosen to serve the royal family, they were not to be released until late in life. This poem, then, is about a court lady.

The first line sets the time and locale of the event, and the second line introduces the heroine herself. What is she doing? She is all alone in clear autumn night, trying to catch fireflies with her small fan. Being exhausted, she reclines on the stone stairs and watches the Herd Boy and the Weaving Girl, two stars (Altair and Vega) on opposite sides of the Heavenly River or Milky Way. We are moved to see such a beautiful girl being left alone on such a beautiful night. We can almost feel the sad emotions in her heart as she watches the two ill-fated lovers condemned eternally to be separated by the mighty Heavenly River. And yet, according to the legend, the two lovers can at least meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month when all the magpies in the sky will get together to form a bridge across the Heavenly River for the couple to use. Our lady, we are afraid, is probably not to see her lover, imagined or real, the rest of her life.

Since the time of the poem is set in an autumn night, and autumn suggests a certain chilliness in temperature, images are appropriately chosen throughout the poem to communicate a feeling of coolness to the reader. Silver candles are white and the white color suggests coolness. The painted screen appears cold in the autumn light. The fireflies, as we know, give out cool greenish beams from their tails. The stone stairs would certainly feel cold in a night that "breathes cool as water." And the feeling we get from looking at the stars especially in an autumn night is also one of coolness. Yet against this rather chilly and lonesome background we are made to see a warm-hearted young lady who tries in vain to get away from the thought of her far away lover by busying herself with the work of catching fireflies. This sharp contrast between a chilly, indifferent environment and a warm, concerned heart accounts for much of the melancholy and pathetic quality we feel about the poem as a whole.

What is remarkable about the poem is its extreme economy of language and reticence of feeling. There are no O's and Alas's. Only the most essential words are used. The reader must grasp the total truth with minimal interference from the poet.

A Note on The Screen of Ink Bamboo By Zheng Xie

by
Ju-hsi Chou

As impressive and extraordinary as it is, the Tokyo National Museum's *Ink Bamboo* 墨竹畫屏風, a screen by Zheng Xie 鄭燮 (1693-1765), has been for sometime the object of unvoiced scholarly misgiving (pl. 42, in *Bunjinoa Suihen* 文人畫粹編, Vol. IX). The source of this misgiving can be traced to the discrepancy between wordings in its inscription and the recorded version of the same. Clarification is much needed, especially since in recent times the undercurrent of misgiving has flared up into an open declaration of no-confidence[1].

To begin the inquiry, it is useful to cite the full inscription on the Tokyo screen, with points of contention italicized for the reader's convenience:

> In my family compound, there is a thatched cottage of *several jian.* At its south, [I] have planted [clusters] of bamboo. During summer, when new growth has sprouted, the verdant shade is luminous. Were we to place a small couch among them, it would be pleasantly cool. During autumn and winter, we may take the wood frame of a screen, cut off the ends, stand it on its side to function as a window frame, and then paste on it thin and white paper. [Thus done], the wind would turn mild and the sun would be warming. [Outside], the houseflies, [nearly] frozen, would hit on [the paper] and produce a *dong-dong* sound, like that from a small drum. In the face of these randomly cast silhouettes of the bamboo, are we not seeing a perfect picture? In my own bamboo paintings, I had no teachers other than [cast shadows] of bamboo on *papered windows* or white walls, under sunlight or moonlight. *Thereupon I composed several stanzas to sing the praises of the bamboo:*
>
> The thunder and rain end,
> As the slanting sun rays shine upon
> The new leaves,
> freshly cut and scissored,
> Casting shadows on the green-gauzed window.
> [Thus] I take the brush to write
> that which is yet to be.
> Twenty years ago, [it was I] who,
> carrying a bottle of wine

And tipsy in the spring breeze,
Leaned on [the post of] the Bamboo West Pavilion.
Now I shall plant once agian the bamboo in Yangzhou,
To renew for Huainan its verdant shade.

That textual differences exist between this inscription and the recorded version in the *Bangiao Tihua* 板橋題畫 [2] is generally known to even those with a passing interest in Zheng Xie and his works. For instance, the *Bangiao Tihua* version lacks the onomatopoetic wording of *dong-dong*. It also favors "red windows" instead of "papered window," and chooses to exclude the following statement, "thereupon I composed several stanzas to sing the praises of the bamboo." If, then, the *Bangiao Tihua* version contains a different ending poem from the stanzas in the Tokyo screen, it should come as no surprise. Similarly, the second stanza in the Tokyo screen is found recorded elsewhere in *Bangiao Tihua* as a separate entry by itself, accompanied by a brief explanation that the painting on which it appeared was the artist's first work upon returning to Yangzhou[3]. No specific date is given , though 1753 is a viable suggestion – that was the year when Zheng Xie's term of office at Weixian 濰縣 , Shandong, came to an abrupt end. Coincidentally, 1753 was also the year during which the Tokyo screen and its close kin, the equally vaunted *Misty Bamboo on Distant Mountains* 遠山煙竹[4], were painted.

Variant readings and permutations such as described above are not exactly unique in the history of Chinese painting. Unless internal "errors" are present, little can be done to ascertain which is the better version as in the present case. In this respect also, it is relevant to call attention to the nature of *Bangiao Tihua* as a text. As a recent study has concluded, *Bangiao Tihua* is not a compilation by Zheng Xie's own hand, but is likely the work of a later admirer, Qi Yu 靳禹 , who collected these inscriptions from known – and to some extent spurious-paintings in his time. As such it is not to be regarded as the ultimate authority[5].

This leaves but one single area of contention, namely, the wording in the Tokyo screen and *Bangiao Tihua* regarding either the size or units of the afore-said thatched cottage. The critical term here is *Jian* 間 , designating the interior dimension or component of the cottage, and, on occasions, the unit measure for the cottages. In the Tokyo screen, mention is made of a "thatched cottage with several *Jian*" whereas the *Bangiao Tihua* version involves a "thatched cottage with two *Jian*." The variant reading here is significant as it stands to reason that the artist ought to have known the physical make-up of his cottage enough to be accurate about it. Unless an equation of "several" and "two" can be established – an equation which goes against common usage in which "several" means more than two, or at a minimum, three – there is an essential contradiction that needs to be resolved.

On the surface, the Zheng Xie of the Tokyo screen appears to have opted for what is regarded as uncommon practice. Thus, in the inscription cited above, even though a claim has been made for the inclusion of "several" stanzas, the actual result is "two."

However, the Tokyo painting, which exists now as a three-fold screen, is hardly its former self. Since a format of either four or six was standard[6], the present screen has lost between one to three panels, a loss which in turn contributes to the precarious balance, or imbalance, in the remaining composition. If the additional panel or panels were present, not only would the suspected "balance" be restored, but the panel(s) could easily have accommodated one or more stanzas, thereby giving the predicate of "several" a simple but effective *raison d'être.*

In short, the problem between "several" and "two" remains intact.

To muster a modicum of support for *Bangiao Tihua,* we may point to Zheng Xie's second letter to his younger cousin, which was sent from his official post in Fanxian 范縣 , Shandong, some time between 1742 and 1746. In that letter, a masterplan was drawn up for his home-to-be where "a cottage with two *jian*" was indeed a salient feature[7].

But what was planned might or might not have been built. In point of fact, it was Zheng Xie himself who kept on altering the number of *jian* in the cottage. Thus, in another entry in *Bangiao Tihua,* Zheng Xie is recorded as having written:

A cottage of three *jian,*	三間茅屋
Spring breeze of ten *li;*	十里春風
Secluded epidendrums within,	窗裡幽蘭
Tall bamboo without[8].	窗外修竹

To this we may add the verse which Zheng Xie composed in memory of his late friend, Li Shan 李鱓 , who passed away circa 1760. There the numeral "three" has become thoroughly affixed in his mind:

Lend me ten *mou* of land to plant and cultivate, 借君十畝堪栽林
Lease to me three *jian* to put up curtains[9]. 賃我三間好下幃

To add confusion to existing chaos, let the following poem, written on an existing work in the collection of the Historical Museum, Beijing, dated 1762, speak for itself:

A thatched cottage of one *jian,*	茅屋一間
Several stalks of bamboo;	新篁數千
Window pasted with snow-white paper,	雪白紙窗
Tinted to a subtle shade of green[10].	微侵綠色

Was Zheng Xie *that* uncertain about his own immediate surroundings? Did the cottage in time perhaps endure changes, remodelling, addition and subtraction so that toward the end of his life, he had only one thatched cottage, or a cottage with one single room on his plot of land?

A part of the solution is to interpret, or translate, the *jian* in the last instance as a "unit" of cottage, which is within the latitude of its meanings. In the rest of instances, *jian* refers to interior dimensions or components or, simply, rooms. Not coincidentally, in the vernacular tradition of Chinese architecture, "a cottage of three *jian*" represents a standard pattern or unit of construction. "Several" thus means "three," not "two."

Could there be another version of the inscription in which "several" is replaced by "three"? Could Qi Yu have access to that version and err when he perhaps mistook the character "three" to be "two"? There is only a one stroke difference between them and a careless reading, not to say rendering, of this sort is quite within the realm of possibility.

To lend support to this hypothesis, let us bring up the case of Qin Zuyong's 秦祖永 *Qijia Yinba* 七家印跋 [11]. Qin's compilation records a Zheng Xie's seal, *"Xiuzhu Wulu"* 脩竹吾廬 ("My House Amidst Tall Bamboo"), with an inscription which is not only the same as that dealt above, but is presumed to have come from the hand of the artist himself. Here, indeed the number of *jian* in the cottage is described to be: "three."

The weight of the evidence now appears to be very much on the side of the Tokyo screen, which is as it should be. In lifting the cloud of suspicion from the painting, this inquiry also effectively restores it to its rightful place, that is, one of the two truly monumental works of the master at his prime, the other being the afore-mentioned *Misty Bamboo on Distant Mountains.* Vigorous in brushwork, luminous in ink passage and orchestrated in the full, these paintings are the lone survivors of Zheng Xie's works in that phase, a phase in which he was, as he himself laconically described it, still involved in rendering "bamboo in profusion." [12] Not long after, the master was to change his approach, turning increasingly toward a reductive mode, reducing "the branches and leaves" of the plants to a selected few, in a way characteristic of the majority of his later works of that subject [13]. But for a time, by force of their sheer visual poetry, these paintings set a new standard for the age which few, if any, of his contemporaries were capable of attaining. Even he himself found it impossible to regain that level in his late years.

FOOTNOTES

1. See Zhou Jiyin, "Zheng Banqiao Huihua Zhuopin Nianbiao (A Chronology of Paintings by Zheng Banqiao)," *Meishu Zongheng,* No. 1 (February 1980), pp. 136-137, entry under 1753. Items marked by a triangle emblem, as in this case, are thought to be doubtful or spurious by the author (see

introductory remarks, p. 134).

2. See *Banqiao Tihua (Meishu Conqshu* edition), p. 125. Also see Zhou Shiyin, p. 149 for another version of the same inscription. While it also mentions a "cottage with 2 *jian*," it is not likely to have been derived from the *Banqiao Tihua* version in that, like the Tokyo screen, it contains the words, *dongdong*.
3. Ibid., p. 129
4. See Claudia Brown and Ju-hsi Chou, *The Elegant Brush: Chinese painting under the Qianlong Emperor. 1735-1795* (Phoenix, 1985), p. 54.
5. See Bian Xiaoxuan, "*Bangiao Tihua* Fei Zheng Xie Suobian, Ke, Yin (*Bangiao Tihua* Was Not Compiled, Cut and Printed by Zheng Xie)," *Shehui Kexue Zhanxian,* No. 3 (1983), p. 314ff.
6. For an example of a set of four hanging scrolls by Zheng Xie, see *Misty Bamboo on Distant Mountain* cited in No. 4 above; for a set of six, see Zhen Jun, *Tianzhi Ouwen* (Taipei reprint, 1970), Ch. 6, p. 27a.
7. See *Zheng Banqiao Ji* (Shanghai, 1982), p. 9-10.
8. *Banqiao Tihua,* p. 140.
9. *Zheng Banqiao Ji,* p. 90.
10. Ibid., p. 207.
11. (*Meishu Congshu* edition, Pt. II, Vol. III), p. 174. See also Bian Xiaoxuan's article, "Qin Zuyong Ji Zheng Banqiao *Yinba* Kaobian (A Critique of *Yinba* of Zheng Banqiao as Compiled by Qin Zuyong)," *Palace Museum Journal,* No. 4 (1983), p. 39ff.
12. See *Zheng Banqiao Ji,* p. 217, quoting from *Shuhua Jianying.* Also see p. 212 for an inscription detailing Zheng Xie's approach to large format.
13. Ibid., p. 217.

How Old is Old?

by

Irene F. Osmund

When life is a monotonous, obsessionally organised, inflexibly rigid routine (often of trivia).....
When you no longer enjoy making new friends or visiting new places.....
When you resist all and any change even if necessary for progress and improvement.....
When you have closed your mind to new information and ideas or to learning new skills however simple.....
When you have lost your sense of adventure and your sense of humour.....
When Hope is dead and
Dreams you no longer dream.....

You Are Old!

Some people are "old" before they are forty while others remain "young" even at eighty.

One cannot turn back the clock, eliminate the ravages of time or arrest physiological changes. Pretending and denial do not help. Indeed, they are detrimental and pathetic. It is unbecoming when one refuses to admit one's age.

One can, however, minimise the results of ageing and keep physically fit much longer by working at it. A healthy lifestyle is beneficial to both body and mind. This should begin early in life for maximal benefit. Adequate sleep, stress control, balanced work and leisure, exercise, a healthy diet and maintenance of ideal body weight are all essential. Needless to say, NO SMOKING, and alcohol intake in strict moderation.

People of all ages can and do become depressed. The elderly are, however, more vulnerable for various reasons.

Retirement is sometimes a precipitating factor unless one has been well prepared for it. Some organisations run courses for their staff for this purpose. One should look forward to retirement as the reward at the end of many years of hard work. It is a time to do the things one always wanted to do but could not because of work and family commitments with their heavy, demanding schedules. Cultivate interests outside your usual work well in advance if you do not already have hobbies and areas of special interest. These activities should be ones that can be pursued with increasing loss of physical strength and stamina.

Over the years changes will creep in, often unnoticed at first. These changes eventually entail minimal to major adjustments.

Diminishing physical strength and stamina, impaired vision and/or hearing, with/without concomitant illness, needs adaptation of one's usual life-style. Well prescribed lenses (glasses), removal of a cataract (an opaque lens) or a hearing aid may help. Sometimes the person is unwilling to accept the physiological changes that come with years – "not yet", "not me". "I can do it" – and when the truth becomes obvious, this lack of acceptance may bring about aggressive behaviour in an attempt to hide the frustration and depression, or alternatively, result in unnecessary complete withdrawal from all activities. For example, Squash may have to be given up but recreational Tennis and Badminton can usually be continued for many years while Walking and Swimming could go on indefinitely and should be encouraged.

Some illnesses are more common with advancing years e.g. Hypertension (high blood pressure), Atherosclerosis (hardening of arteries), Diabetes Mellitus, Arthritis, Alzeimer's Disease (progressive, severe loss of memory), Parkinsonism. For a person known to be very fit in his youth, it takes some adjusting when illness requires regulation of diet and activities and continuous medications as well as visits to the doctor. A good and understanding doctor helps.

Intellectual ability is usually retained for many years and decades. Eventually, it deteriorates though this is delayed in some more than others. It is said that if a person gives up all intellectual pursuits, the deterioration is accelerated. "Speed" is, however, lost with years. The older person must learn to use experience to compensate for speed as football players sometimes do. Many people, even those not so old, sometimes have trouble remembering names or to find the right word. As one gets older, this problem gets worse. Often it is not 'memory' that is faulty but 'recall'. The information is stored in the 'memory' but the 'computer' is from an earlier 'generation' and does not have a fast 'hard disk' or the 'programme' is a slow and inefficient one. In human beings, we can do little about the 'computer' itself, 'upgrading' is not possible but the 'programme' can be improved. Use associations to help recall. When you meet a person listen carefully to his name and try to repeat it at the first opportunity – reinforcement. Use more than one sense – hear the information, write it down (do this mentally if you cannot actually do so) repeat it to yourself. Use reinforcements and associations to help recall. Do not try to do more than one thing at a time. Always put things back where you found them and have proper places for everything or you will spend an unnecessary amount of time looking for them.

Loss of independence – physical and sometimes financial – could be problematical if not prepared for. With advancing years one should choose a home that is easy to maintain and conveniently situated as regards access to places one needs or wants to visit as shops, church, library, art galleries, one's friends and family. A rambling house in the country with acres of land may be very attractive at first but may, with advancing years, prove too difficult to maintain and the once much appreciated isolation may, with decreasing mobility, result in loneliness, frustration and resentment. In contrast, a small comfortable bungalow well-fitted with labour-saving devices and situated within easy reach of shops and/or public transport will allow an elderly person to remain independent and capable of interesting pursuits much longer. Planning for retirement should begin years before the intended date and should ensure adequate financial provisions. Do not count on your family for financial support if this is at all possible.

Loneliness is perhaps the most painful part of ageing.

(a) The Empty Nest Syndrome. Children grow up and eventually leave home. It will occur to everyone hence the importance of 'couple-bonding' and developing good intra-couple communication, mutual friends and, desirably, at least some mutual interests, preferably ones that can be pursued even with advancing age. You start as a couple and after many years you are back to square one so start preparing for it!

(b) Colleagues. During one's working life one becomes used to the companionship of colleagues and those who share the same professional and/or social interests. On retirement, much of this is lost. Once again, plan for retirement years ahead – it is the time to do the things you always wanted to do but never had the time. Keep in touch with your former colleagues, many of them are your friends too, we hope, not just workmates. Take the initiative to contact them but do not hang around your former work place too much making it embarrassing or disrupting work.

(c) Friends and Relatives. Over the years many have moved or emigrated or have died. Do not impose yourself too much on the younger generation.

(d) Loss of Spouse. This is a very traumatic event in the life of elderly couples. A reasonable period of grieving is normal and healthy and should be allowed. Friends and younger relatives can do much to help.

Positive attitudes improve the quality of life. The optimist encounters fewer obstacles, whether real or imagined e.g. the cup is half-empty to a pessimist while to an optimist it is half-full. The optimist rejoices he is able to walk or jog, the pessimist moans he is no longer able to sprint. Look for

and make the most of 'the silver-lining in every cloud". Never mind what might have been, be grateful for the present. The past cannot return and the future is yet to come, the present is all one has full control of.

Ageing will come to all unless one is 'called away' sooner than expected. Denial only makes matters worse. "Be Prepared" is the motto many of us were taught as Scouts or Guides. If it is a good motto for youth, it is essential for the ageing. Be Prepared, Accept your Limitations then make the best of what Talent, Energy and Time (TET) you have left. What is left may be much more and better than you originally thought.

You may even find it quite fun to be older!

日本人の目から見た香港の選挙

谷垣真理子作

The Hong Kong Elections Through Japanese Eyes

by

Mariko Tanigaki

香港は1991年９月15日に歴史的な一日を迎えた。香港は初めて立法局に直接選挙を導入した。これによって、香港人はついに自身が選んだ代表を香港のに中央政治レベルに送ることができた。選挙に対して香港人はもちろん海外からも同じ問いが発せられた。香港人は一体、誰にその将来を託すのだろうか。

Hong Kong saw a historic day come around on the 15th of September, 1991. A method of direct election to the Legislative Council was first introduced. This occasion means Hong Kong people have finally come to send their elected representatives to Hong Kong's political core. However, not only Hong Kong residents but also people abroad raised the same question about the election: To whom Hong Kong people would trust their future?

選挙結果から見れば、有権者の支持は明らかに民主派に大きく傾斜してした。そのなかでも李柱銘が率いる香港民主同盟は最大の支持を集めた。彼らは18議席中実に14議席を占めるという圧倒的な勝利をおさめたのである。しかしながら、香港民主同盟の将来は決して安定的なものではない。なぜならば、彼らは中国の民主化運動を積極的に支援したため、中国の中央政府から反体制的な組織と見なされているからである。もし、ある人が1997年以降も政治的活動を継続するつもりであれば、大陸の中央政府との対話を維持することが不可欠である。

The polling result obviously showed a strong preference for a group of political associations called democrats. Both conservatives and leftists were defeated by these democrats. Among democrats, Martin Lee's United Democrats received the most support. 14 out of 18 seats were occupied by the United Democrats, a surprising landslide victory. However their political future is not stable. They are recognized as against the Chinese government because of their deep concern with the democratic movement on the mainland. If a political figure wishes to survive after 1997, it is indispensable for him or her to have communication with the central government in mainland China.

一体、香港人はどのような基準で民主派を選択したのであろうか。人々は1997年までに香港民主同盟が中国との関係を改善できると思うほど楽観的なのであろうか。しかしながら、多くの人々は反対党の存在を持ち続けていたようである。人々は彼らの側に立って中国の権力に敢えて抵抗しうる勢力を選択した。立法局選挙後、選ばれた民主派議員もまた人々の期待に答えるべく反対党としての役割を積極的に果たしている。なお、同時に民主派の勝利は世界に向けて香港人が民主主義を指向していることの絶好のアピールとなった。

By what standard did the Hong Kong people make such a decision? Were they so optimistic as to expect that the United Democrats could improve relations with China? However, it seems that people had been waiting for an opposition group to rise. They chose those who could stand at their side and dare to resist the power of China. After the Legco election, the elected democrats have been playing an active role of opposition in order to respond to people's support. At the same time the democrats' victory became a good demonstration to the outside world that Hong Kong people like democracy.

『香港経済日報』の社会調査によれば、香港の有権者は候補者のスローガンや過去の議員としての経験を重視した。しかしながら、候補者のスローガンは大なり小なり似たものであった。したがって、私にとっては、当選への鍵は、候補者が人々にアピールしうる好ましいイメージを作り上げることができたか否かによるところが大きかったように思われる。この点から言えばテレビ討論はきわめて重要であった。テレビ討論は有権者が候補者に関する生の情報を得ることのできるもっとも容易な道であった。番組では候補者はあますところなく有権者の眼にさらされる。もし、候補者が上手に答えることができなければ、それは自身が有能ではないというイメージを作り上げてしまう。

According to a social survey by the Hong Kong Economic Times, the electorate made more of candidates' platforms and past experience as elected members of tertiary political levels. However candidates' platform were more or less the same. In my eyes, the key to success depended on whether a politician could create a preferable image for the public. In this sense, TV debates were quite important. That was the easiest way for voters to get vivid information about the candidates. TV exposed candidates to the public thoroughly. If candidates could not answer well, they would create the image of being incapable.

香港の選挙でもっとも印象的であったのは香港の選挙キャンペーンの「静けさ」であった。選挙カーの拡声器が騒々しくがなりたてるようになると、私は日本の選挙の季節の到来を感じる。繁華街では候補者が街頭演説をして有権者に支持を訴える。候補者はほとんど泣かんばかりに支持を訴え、額が勝につかんばかりに有権者に頭を下げる。このような行動に比べると、香港の候補者はポスターや宣伝看板、宣伝ビラなどの「静かな方法」で支持を訴えた。くわえて、高学歴の候補者は日本の場合に比べてよりエリート的な色彩が濃い。私には候補者が高姿勢であるのにもかかわらず、その潜在的な行政的な能力を評価されて香港社会から歓迎されたことが興味深かつた。

The most impressive was the "quietness" of Hong Kong's electoral campaign. In Japan we have come to realize the arrival of electoral period by the "loudness" of campaign cars with loudspeakers. In the downtown, candidates make street speeches and ask the voters for support. They sometimes nearly cry for help and bow so deeply as if their noses would touch their knees. In contrast to such behavior, Hong Kong candidates called for support by the silent way of posters, banners and campaign bills. In addition, highly-educated candidates seem to have a more elitist attitude than those in Japan. It was interesting to me that such candidates seemed to be welcomed by society because of their potential administrative capability.

いずれにせよ、香港は「高度の自治」すなわち「港人治港」にむけて第一歩を踏みだした。日本では現在香港に対しての関心が増大しつつある。ビジネスマンにとって、香港はめざましい経済発展を遂げる華南経済圏の牽引力として魅力的である。また、若者にとって香港はもっとも人気のある外国のひとつである。香港がいかにして政治的に成熟するのであろうか。これは地元香港の人々のみならず、日本人にとってもおおいに関心のもたれるところである。

Thus Hong Kong made a first step toward a high degree of autonomy. In Japan concern for Hong Kong is now growing. For the business world Hong Kong is attractive because she functions as a locomotive to the economic development of South China. Hong Kong is one of the popular foreign land for the young. It is meaningful not only for local Hong Kong people, but also for the Japanese to know the way Hong Kong will politically mature.

Responses to Change: University and College, Campus and Cloister in Hong Kong.

by

Brian Hook

To the periodic academic visitor, the campus of the University of Hong Kong is impressive for its continuous rapid development over the past quarter of a century. Stages in this development are evident in the changing styles of architecture, determined by ever-increasing site densities and facilitated by new materials, building techniques and state-of-the-art thinking on high-rise construction for education. All of this leaves the undiscerning visitor with the impression of an unimpeded progression from a small colonial institution, often having been characterized as elitist, to a sizeable territorial university of international standing. Set alongside this impressive architectural landscape, the Robert Black College, whose silver jubilee we celebrate, evokes by its adherence, both structural and decorative, to the Chinese architectural technique and style, less a sense of change and more a sense of tradition.

The discerning academic visitor will know, however, that while it is possible to regard, the College on the one hand as being geomantically propitious, more permanently in harmony with its natural surroundings and with a greater tradition than that which apparently inspires the present, and the new campus buildings on the other hand as representing mere phases in a series of finite responses to demand, as geotechnically sound and more accurately reflecting the necessarily obtrusive entrepreneurial culture of their provenance, the two are in practice actually complementary and both are brought together in a unified purpose by those who use them. In this regard, despite its unchanging appearance, the echoing cloisters, the delicately nurtured gardens and the sylvan setting providing a popular and populated sanctuary for bird and beast, over the past quarter of a century, successive Masters have sought successfully to ensure that College and University, campus and cloister have remained in harmony.

The most evident of the changes, aside from the substantial extension and refurbishment of the accommodation, the evolution of a high-tech office whose ethic is characterized by efficiency and a level of kindness, understanding and tolerance of academic eccentricity and idiosyncracy seldom if ever encountered elsewhere, is to be found in the community of scholars who have the privilege of association with the College. Among the most significant developments is in the College community, in the now almost unremarked presence of academic visitors from the Chinese mainland. It may seem astonishing to any younger colleague reading this contribution to single this out for attention yet, in fact, merely a decade or so ago, in the late 1970s, China was emerging uncertainly from the self-imposed isolation of the Cultural Revolution; research by outsiders in China was relatively

rare; academic collaboration was rarer and exchanges of scholars, when they occurred, so characterized by their 'zou ma kan hua' nature as to be time-consuming and frustratingly ineffective. All this is now, as the saying goes, happily, mostly past tense. Like that of many other distinguished academic institutions, the University of Hong Kong campus is now host to numerous academic visitors from the mainland and is the location of a number of collaborative research programmes, as the intellect of distinguished Chinese scholars and researchers has been emancipated and freedom of movement improved to enrich international scholarship.

As this trend has occurred, so the College community has changed. The more permanent residents, post-graduate students who hold a key to the future of Hong Kong, are now joined by scholars from most countries of the world, the only exception, temporary it may seem, being those from the erstwhile Soviet Union. The gains from this interchange of experience and understanding are incalculable. They derive from the modernizing of China. This is, as yet, far from complete. In the space of a decade however by the opening of China to the outside world, what were formerly aspirations in many academic disciplines have become commonplace realities. It would be difficult to imagine a reversal of this trend, despite the critical scrutiny of some of its perceived consequences: the restructured economy of Hong Kong, the well-being of the population there and in the neighbouring municipalities, counties and zones in Guangdong have become dependent on the economic links forged in the 1980s. The future modernization of the Chinese economy will draw on the expertise gained and lessons learned from the Special Economic Zones around Hong Kong. The agreement over the Port and Airport Development Strategy appears to have secured the future preeminent role of Hong Kong in the economic development of South China.

All of this has promoted the astonishing growth that led to the expansion of the University and with it, to the enhanced role and function of the College. Although the distinguished benefactors, whose generous donations in the early 1960s led to the establishing of a College named after a much admired and respected Governor, could not have envisaged the scope of change and depth of challenge that confronts their successors, they must be congratulated on their wisdom and foresight. Without the benefit of hindsight we now enjoy, they caused to be built a small but essential part of the University of Hong Kong. Over the past quarter of a century, within its traditional form and setting, the College has shown a remarkable responsiveness to change. As we celebrate its silver jubilee we should congratulate the Master and all the staff who, together with a uniquely diverse academic community, combine to make Robert Black College a reflection of contemporary Hong Kong and the epitome of the expression:

shan bu zai gao you xian ze ling 山不在高，有仙則靈；
shui bu zai shen you long ze ming. 水不在深，有龍則名。

Life after Robert Black College

by

Li Ching Lu

Music from the radio alarm wakes me from a dream: it is 9:00 am, a new day. Open the window to welcome the cool fresh air. Go to the bathroom to wash away remaining sleepiness. Hurry down to the kitchen to have a simple breakfast, then fill up my lunch box. Now I am ready to start the day.

It takes about 20 minutes to walk to my lab, the same distance as from Robert Black College to the medical school when I was studying in Hongkong. The city starts to get busy at this time, but it still cannot be compared with Hongkong. Halifax has smaller population. I remember when I had just arrived in Halifax I had such difficulty finding someone on the street to ask for directions. When I finally saw someone walking towards me, he turned down another street and disappeared before I could reach him! This would never happen in Hongkong. There, you only need to turn your head and there are people all around you! The building where I work is surrounded by a beautiful autumn scene of trees turning to golden and red against a blue sky. Nova Scotia is famous for its natural beauty.

Entering the building, I try to sneak into my office as quickly as possible. Some people are already having their coffee break! "Good morning, Chinglu"! Oh no, I meet my supervisor on the corridor! He must have been working for an hour already. Believe it or not, I used to be an early bird in Robert Black College. Every day I was among the first people in the dining room for breakfast. I cannot get up early any more. What is my excuse? Maybe I am suffering from chronic "jet lag"! Arriving in the tissue culture room and turning on the music, I start to play with my microscope and nerve cell cultures.

"Lunch time, Chinglu." Wait, let me check my mail first (this has become a habit). Although I am lazy at writing letters, I enjoy reading letters from my friends. But it seems that my friends are becoming as lazy as I. Letters come less and less frequently. Often my mail box is empty. The only letters which are never late are the bills from the telephone company and from MasterCard. Aha, there is some "real" mail in my mail box today – a letter and a post card. Whose handwriting is on the card? A surprise from the Italian doctor of Hongkong? Oh, I remember now. It is the surgeon from Sicily, who lived in Robert Black College when I was there. How can I write back? There is no address on the card! The letter is from a Swire Scholar who is now doing a postdoc in Cambridge; lucky him, he found a residence similar to Robert Black College! I love Robert Black College – the Chinese-style construction with sky-blue roof supported by red columns. Why blue and red? I don't know. Maybe it stands for the universe – the blue represents

heaven, and the red means "red dust", a Chinese expression for the earth we live on. I had such a wonderful time there. For me, it was not just a comfortable, homely place to live in, but also a "college" outside the university. It was there that I learned how to eat with knife and fork, and first met people from different countries with different cultural backgrounds. At the social functions in the College, I started to learn how to "socialize". By talking to people over the dining room table, I broadened my knowledge, improved my English, and – most importantly – I made friends. Some of them have become very important in my life. I wish I could live through those days again.

Daytime passes very quickly when you are busy. Soon it will be supper time. Here, there is no "gong" for dinner. I can go to the King's College canteen with other students for western food, or I can cook Chinese food for myself. I have decided to practise eating with knife and fork tonight, the skill I learned at Robert Black College.

My "afternoon" starts after supper. Back to the office, sitting in front of the journals and the student lab reports, I start my work for the rest of the day. I enjoy the quietness of the evening. My brain works more efficiently in the evening – because of "jet lag"?

This is a typical working day for graduate students here. However, my life here is not locked in the office. At weekends I go out with my friends to movies, or play badminton. If the weather is good, I prefer to go cycling or driving outside the city to enjoy the wonderful natural beauty of Nova Scotia. But no matter where I go, memories of Robert Black College are always with me. The magic landscape here reminds me of the hiking trails where I had such a good time with my old college friends. I miss the view of the harbour from my college room. I wonder if the big trees are still branching out like huge umbrellas under my window. Are the squirrels still busy in the trees peeping at the people in the dining room?

One day I hope to visit Robert Black College again and relive all these beautiful memories.

Robert Black Collge: My Favorite Home Away From Home

by

Chün-tu Hsüeh

In April 1946, I left Chongqing (Chungking) for Hong Kong on my way to Singapore by an airplane provided by the Chinese government exclusively for the friends and families of several prominent overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia. In February 1962, I resigned from Stanford University's Department of Political Science and declined to accept a Senior Research Fellowship offered by Professor C.P. Fitzgerald at the Australian National University, in order to assume a lectureship in history at the University of Hong Kong. If Fitzgerald had been able to accept my "counter proposal" requesting a Senior Fellowship, which was a tenured position, instead of the Senior Research Fellowship (a renewable five-year appointment), I would have gone to Canberra. As luck would have it, there was no opening for a Senior Fellow at that time; thus, I was able to return to Hong Kong for the first time in sixteen years, thoroughly enjoying the British system of a light teaching load and marvellous social life in Hong Kong for more than two years. To the best of my knowledge, I was the first ethnic Chinese ever appointed to the HKU history department as a Lecturer. Until then, the highest teaching position held by a Chinese in the history department was that of Assistant Lecturer.

I was granted an extended "home leave" for 1964-65 to return to the United States for teaching and research. In the summer of 1965, I resigned from HKU to accept a teaching position in the United States. Looking back, it was a good decision; otherwise, I would have had to retire from HKU at the age of sixty, when my life of maturity and wisdom began. But I continued to return frequently to Hong Kong until the end of 1972. Thereafter, for some reason, I lost interest in the place for nearly a decade.

I do not remember when it was first arranged for me to stay at Robert Black College (RBC) in connection with a lecture tour in the early 1980s. Until then, and strangely enough, I had had no idea RBC was a residential centre for some graduate students and visiting scholars, although it had been officially opened in January 1967. But once I had stayed there, it became my first choice whenever I visited Hong Kong. This year (1991) I stayed at RBC in April, June, and October; and again later in November for a few days. I also plan to stay there in December after attending a conference in Tokyo, if I have the good fortune of obtaining a seat on any airline at Christmas time.

I have always been impressed by the blue-tiled roofs and the artistic, traditional Chinese architectural design of the RBC building; and I enjoy the cozy atmosphere, the beautiful harbour views, and the tranquility of distance from, yet convenience to, the bustling business district in the city. The place is efficiently run, the price is most reasonable, and the staff are very helpful and courteous. Thought the food is not fancy, it is more than adequate, and the facilities have been markedly improved in recent years. It is a delightful place to meet travelling scholars of various disciplines from all over the world. I sincerely hope that RBC and the rest of Hong Kong will not only remain intact but also achieve even greater success after 1997.

柏立基學院から一言
Speaking from Robert Black College

勝見栄子作

香港の持つオリエンタルエナジーは　加速度を増し新しい方向に向に向かっている。人口の約半分は１人当りの居住面積１平方m以下の高層アパートに住み、衛生都市の開発も進んでいる。街をせわしなく歩き、立ち止まっては携帯電話に耳を傾ける。

そこをロールスロイスが走り抜ける。細い路地にも店が並ぶ。街のどこかに英国的香港、そして香港的無国籍地帯。

1991年３月～６月の３ケ月間、私は香港大学語文研習所で北京語を勉強する為、柏立基学院に滞在した。香港世界の一世界であるH.K.U.地内に存在する柏立基学院はまさに香港的無国籍地帯ともいうべく　国籍という枠を越えた様々な人々と出合うことが出来た。一応共通語である英語は　時には北京語であったり　他の言語であったりする。一つの言葉を介して、まったく違った風土に育ち　文化を持った人と触れ合うことができるという大きな刺激を私に与えてくれた。８人でパーティをして言語が５つであったりすることもある。一度には笑えない。それも　またおもしろい。単一民族　単一言語　島国日本育ちの私にとって、いろいろな国の文化や言語が交差するのは非常に刺激的でありすべてが新しい経験として吸収することができた。そのような新体験スペースを提供してくれる柏立基学院は私にとっては基調な存在である。

Translated by

Leung Wai Sun

The "Oriental Energy" of Hong Kong is increasing in a new direction. This is a city where half the population resides in high-rise buildings with barely adequate living space and where urban hygiene is developing rapidly. In the streets, it is a common sight to see people either walking busily or stopping while carrying and talking to portable telephones. There are many Rolls Royce in Hong Kong whose narrow side streets are full of shops and stores. Is this a British city or is it a stateless city?

I attended Mandarin classes in the Language Centre of the University of Hong Kong for three months from March to June, 1991. During the period I lived in the Robert Black College of the University, the only College of its type in the world where scholars of different nationalities and ages mingle with one another. English is the common language there though other popular languages and certain dialects of China are also spoken. Such an experience leaves a deep impression on someone like me who has been brought up in Japan where we have a monolithic culture, language and society. It is in the Robert Black College that I learn to live in an international environment.

空に向かって何本も伸びる高層ビル群があるかと思えほ、その谷間には市場や露店がひしめきあう。九龍城近くの素朴な潮州料理店の前にベンツやロールスロイスが止まっていたりする。それらをひとつひとつ理解することは簡単だが　すべてまとめて香港を表現することは不可能に近い。現在もどんどん生まれ変わって行こうとしている香港は　とてもひとつのアングルからでは、語ることは、できない。

だからこそ　私にとって　香港は魅力的な場所なのである。

Different thoughts come to one's mind when one looks up between several high-rise buildings towards the sky. Below the buildings there are the noisy shops and hawkers' stalls. The Chiu Chow Restaurants in Kowloon City, for instance, are patronised by owners of Mercedes Benzes and other posh cars. There is but one of the many phenomena in Hong Kong which are not easy for me to comprehend. Nor can I see the reasons for the changes that take place ceaselessly in Hong Kong. Perhaps this is precisely why I am so attracted by this fascinating city.

Hong Kong, Hong Kong – Not The Touristy Impressions

by

Yap Sook Lan & Robert Foo Koong Siak

Hong Kong has probably been written to death by both bona fides and touristy writers who are unabashedly enamoured of the exotica and paradoxical miracles of this infinitely fascinating place. We should be foolhardy to try to add to this already over-crowded genre by voicing further homage to Hong Kong. Rather, we would like to celebrate Hong Kong for its less ostentatious delights that depart from the well-chronicled tourist attractions, and also give our impressions of some aspects of life that strike us as uniquely Hong Kong.

We are two Singaporeans fortunate enough to be staying in the conducive environs of Robert Black College (RBC), which is perched at mid level just above the campus of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). RBC, with its splendid Chinese classical architectural lines and arches, is a perfect foil to the bland squat or vertical anonymity of the majority of the buildings of the campus. From this vantage position, enframed by the serene and enduring backdrop of jadeite tumbling hills, RBC becomes a departure point for us to savour the unsung delights and surprises of Hong Kong.

For us nature lovers, RBC's greatest asset is its easy and unobtrusive access to a very agreeable ascent to the much vaunted Peak. In the cool mellowness of deep autumn, this experience is immeasurably pleasurable. We must confess that it is not reaching the Peak itself that makes us value the ascent so highly. Rather, it is the climb, indeed, the journey itself, that we find so rewarding, both physically and spiritually.

This is because the ascent is so full of enriching little delights that it is no exaggeration to say that every climb is as illuminating as an enlightening education, besides affording us very pleasant exercise. For we city dwellers have almost forgotten how to cherish and relish things that are free and in great abundance. Now, from RBC at mid level, we can rise effortlessly, literally and metaphorically, to a height of great panoramic sights and insights, and get intoxicated by the numerous sublime experiences along the way.

We have grown to be very fond of the path of ascent that is just a stone's throw from RBC. It winds and hugs its gentle serpentine way along the luscious emerald slopes, making the ascent non-intimidating even to the less physically inclined. And along the way, it wends through canopies of checkered foliage in all soothing nuances of green. At times it is resplendently exposed to the infinitude of the arching azure skies or the elements-sculptured rock faces with their multitudes of earthy hues. Each

time we ascend it, more surprises spring on us: inconspicuous things like the aesthetic gnarls and whorls of a camphor trunk, imperceptibly blending like a forgotten sentinel into the wild woods, unusual flora that flourishes with a burst of unabashed abandon among common greenery, or fantastically weird insects making a rare appearance like a movie star.... and countless little captivating vignettes of nature.

One can never be too long in a monotonous patch. The journey engages us in ever-changing sweeping sights of different aspects of Hong Kong. The uncontaminated air is a crisp and refreshing change from the fumes-choked foothills with their swirling and crushing mass of humanity and concrete. The hills behind RBC are indeed very much alive with the sounds of myriad elements of nature. Another welcome experience that comes with the ascent is the opportunity to engage in quiet or animated exchanges with companions – surely a much neglected and undervalued pastime in our frenetic age.

The other phenomenon that escapes most residents or passers-by around RBC is the unusual appearance of three solitary Peach Blossom shrubs at the entrance to the old block's car park. Amidst all the ragged and straggly greenery that surrounds this very mundane area, these shrubs, unpretentiously shorn of all foliage, seem to make a courageously winsome statement about individual rights and survival amidst alien plants. They burst forth in an animated explosion of lush pink blossoms in winter, as if in defiance of great odds against their being there. People who notice them enjoy a feast for their eyes and a rejuvenating reminder that "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind ?"

Hong Kong both brutalizes and dazzles the senses with violent contrasts. The prosperity of Hong Kong (especially in Central and Admiralty) is ostentatiously visible and palpable: gleaming canyons of concrete, stainless steel, tinted shatter-proof glass and mirror-chrome stand like great monolithic altars to free enterprise, eclipsing the uncertain sun. Yet through this grandiloquent facade and the proud waterfronts (eg Blake Pier), you will be disturbed to see scores of decrepit street-sleepers (usually old but not unwell-looking men), beggars and the destitute aged, some bent double like Caliban, plodding and punctuating the unresponding scenario like so many surrealistic moral quesiton marks. At least Caliban, a noble savage, swindled and deprived of his land by magic, possesses poetic vocables to chide and curse in dignity. These people possess little and less. But in contrast, Hong Kong is also immensely big-hearted. Its staggering generous response to the victims of the catastrophic floods of southern China, or to any publicised tragedy, defies belief and never fails to warm our hearts to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is rich in smells. Western Street assails the senses with its interminable and awesome array of dried sea-food. Especially pungent is the smell of salted fish of all kinds and sizes. Sometimes in backlanes and in front

of cinemas, one can be nauseated by the overpowering stench of deep-fried doufu (bean curd) sold by illegal vendors; it is sewerishly obnoxious, but the locals love it – they even proudly call it 'Stinking Doufu'. I guess they will say the same thing about our beloved 'stinking' durian.

Of course, nothing quite surpassses the smells of the infamous Walled City of Kowloon. The walls are no more. It's a veritable No Man's Land – unadministered by China which owns it, untended by the Hong Kong government which wanted to demolish it but was afraid to offend China (permission is granted recently), and unwanted by anybody else, except illegals, criminals, whores, destitutes and quacks. Access to this dark-ages catacomb is by a midnight maze of filthy, stinking, pests-infested, trash-strewn subterranean-like treacherous tunnels, cobwebbed with exposed dripping and grease-grime-thickened cables and electric wires, pipelines etc. We never got past anyone of them to reach the centre of this monumental mausoleum of shame and dehumanization. We were too afraid to penetrate right into the heart of this maze, but the city is home to excellent food makers and scores of unqualified dentists and some quack doctors. Some claim that the tiny glutinous buns with lotus paste stuffings produced here are the best in Hong Kong. Mercifully this place will be demolished completely by the end of this year.

But Hong Kong is more than just Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. The tumbling, lush and emerald or bald mountains and hills that frame pretty beaches, the vast and better planned New Territories, the ubiquitous Victoria harbour and its ancient but romantic ferries, and some of the larger of the 200 plus virginal islands, provide immense relief and refuge from the ever rushing and crushing currents of humanity and the wounded environs at the foothills.

We would like to thank Hong Kong for never failing to offer a kaleidoscope of exhilarating and sometimes sobering experiences and lessons in the faith of humanity despite facing odds and uncertainly. We look forward to returning to Hong Kong, and especially to RBC, the gateway to so many fond and enriching memories.

Beyond Hong Kong

by

Barbara A. Barns

Welcome to Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong and, most appropriately, Robert Black College. As you may have already sensed, Hong Kong is full of excitement, wonder and opportunities. My 13 months here have been the most rewarding and challenging ones of my entire life. During this time I have had the opportunity to travel to most of the surrounding countries, and beyond. Each holds its own cultural nuances, peculiarities, customs, gifts, warmth and memories. If you have the time after discovering all there is in Hong Kong, don't pass up the chance to explore beyond the territory. The Robert Black College staff is a wealth of information and knowledge in the "goings on" in Hong Kong and can easily steer you in the right direction. Therefore, I'll limit my suggestions to the surrounding areas.

THAILAND is possibly the most popular country to visit near Hong Kong. Flights are frequent and relatively inexpensive. Bangkok is a good starting point and definitely worth a few days. The Grand Palace, Jim Thompson's House and the various *wats* (temples) are all noteworthy. Elephant trekking in the northern areas of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai is exceptionally rewarding but not for the unprepared, out of shape or those with a strong desire to always be clean. Mud and dirt abound, but so do spectacular scenery and welcoming hilltribe villagers. The southern Thailand beach areas also offer spectacular scenery but of a different sort. Before visiting Thailand, I never knew sand could be so white, water so pure or the sun so intense. My three favorites are Koh Phi Phi and Phranang Bay (outside Krabi), both on the west coast, and Koh Samui on the east coast.

Despite being neighbours, MALAYSIA is quite different from Thailand. The population is less homogeneous and each culture contributes its own unique characteristic to the resulting fabric of Malaysia. This is particularly true in the Portuguese settlement of Malacca. I had the fortunate experience of being in Malaysia during the egg laying season of the Giant Leatherback Turtles. These huge animals struggle to shore – moaning, huffing and literally crying the whole way – to lay and bury their 80+ eggs. Returning to the sea they are transformed to gracefulness upon reaching the water. Quite an amazing site and definitely one worth seeing. The Cameron Highlands in central peninsular Malaysia offer beautiful views of the tea plantation–clad mountains and a nice break from the steamy heat.

SINGAPORE is an amazing city complete with glittering buildings, abundant shopping, efficient transportation, world renowned hotels, meticulously clean surroundings and rich ethnic centers. Malay, Indian and

Chinese cultures blend in this small island to create a diverse, but hospitable, environment. Arab Street, Little India and Chinatown are all worth a visit. A favorite pastime in Singapore is eating, and there is plenty of wonderful food from which to choose. An interesting and fun alternative is the "Hawker Centers" which offer economical and diverse cuisines.

INDONESIA is a vast country spanning from Malaysia to Australia. Bali, claiming the largest Hindu population outside India, has preserved its own culture despite the onslaught of international tourists. Ubud, the handicraft and cultural center, is home to the famed Balinese dancing, numerous silver and handicraft shops and a lively monkey forest. Bali's beaches are nice but the real Bali is to be found in the island's interior.

NEPAL offers some of the most spectacular trekking and scenery in the world. The Himalaya Mountain range borders the northern side with the Kathmandu valley lying to the south. October to March is the best time to visit in hopes of seeing Mt. Everest, which is often obscured by clouds. West of Kathmandu is Pokhara, Nepal's second largest city, with a beautiful lake and fantastic views of Fishtail Mountain. Treks through the Annapura Mountains generally leave from Pokhara. Chitwan National Park lies between Pokhara and Kathmandu and is home to the one-horned black Rhinoceros, Bengal Tiger, crocodiles, wild boars, monkeys, etc. Safaris through Chitwan are easily arranged from Kathmandu or Pokhara.

Possibly the most breathtaking beach I've ever seen is Boracay in the PHILIPPINES. This pristine island is surrounded by crystal clear water and covered with snow-white, silky sand and dense palm trees. The island offers wonderful nightlife, peace and relaxation, an abundance of good restaurants featuring many cuisines and amazing coral views while snorkelling or diving. Electricity is limited so at dusk, after a lingering sunset, the island begins to glow with kerosene lanterns and fire torches.

The possible discoveries and explorations in Southeast Asia are endless. I hope my brief suggestions help you get started in your planning. There's definitely something for everyone; have fun finding your own paradise that is out there waiting for you.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS AND COLLEGE SEMINARS OF SWIRE SCHOLARS

A STUDY OF THE COLONIZATION OF LEAF PACKS BY AQUATIC HYPHOMYCETES IN A NON-POLLUTED AND A POLLUTED STREAM IN HONG KONG*

D.W.T. Au, I.J. Hodgkiss and L.L.P. Vrijmoed, Dept. of Botany, University of Hong Kong and Dept. of Applied Science, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong.

Abstract

An investigation concerning the succession of mycoflora on decaying *Bauhinia purpurea* L. leaves in litter-bags submerged in the relatively clean Tai Po Kau Forest Stream (TPKFS) and the animal waste polluted Lam Tsuen River (LTR) was carried out during the winter of 1988 and summer of 1989. A total of 28 aquatic hyphomycetes species were found, most of them being cosmopolitan or frequently reported in temperate regions. The development of aquatic hyphomycetes, in terms of conidial production and species richness, was better in the TPKFS (27 species) than in the polluted LTR (14 species). *Clavariopsis aquatic, Lunulospora cymbiformis* and *Flagellospora penicillioides* were the dominant species recorded at both sites regardless of season, although their relative importance on the decaying leaf litter was shown to be different in pattern. *Triscelophorus acuminatus* and *T. monosporus* were observed frequently on the TPKFS leaves in summer. With regard to the associated geofungi, they were more diversified on leaf litter in the polluted LTR (35 species) than in the TPKFS (28 species). The aquatic hyphomycetes and geofungi had a complimentary sequence of dominance on leaf litter during different seasons, whereas the bacteria and aquatic hyphomycetes exhibited an inverse pattern in their colonization of leaf litter. Both the aquatic hyphomycetes and the geofungi were shown to be related to and probably play an important role in, decomposition of *B. purpurea* L. leaf litter.

*Fourth International Mycological Congress, Regensberg, Germany, August, 1990.

EFFECT OF CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OF ANGIOTENSIN II ON THE NEURONAL ACTIVITIES IN ROSTRAL VENTROLATERAL MEDULLA AND BLOOD PRESSURE OF SPONTANEOUSLY HYPERTENSIVE AND NORMOTENSIVE RATS*

B.K.W. Chan, *Y.S. Chan and T.M. Wong* Dept. of Physiology, University of Hong Kong.

Abstract

To determine whether rostral ventrolateral medulla (RVL) is a site of action of angiotensin II (Ang II), which had been shown to increase arterial blood pressure (BP) and sympathetic nerve activities, the effects of central administration of Ang II on the spontaneous neuronal activities of RVL and BP changes in pentobarbital anesthetized normotensive Wistar Kyoto rats (WKY) and spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR) were studied. Extracellular activities of RVL neurons were recorded either by a tungsten electrode in experiments involving intracerebroventricular (i.c.v.) administration or by a double barrel glass pipette in experiments involving iontophoretic application to RVL. In WKY and SHR, both i.c.v. and iontophoretic administration of Ang II increased the firing rates of single and double discharge RVL units dose-dependently. Following i.c.v. or iontophoretic administration, the increase in firing rates was greater and the duration of the responses was longer in SHR than in WKY. With iontophoretic administration, RVL units also showed lower threshold current and longer duration of response in SHR than in WKY. The BP elevation accompanying the increase in firing rate of RVL neurons following i.c.v. administration of Ang II was significantly greater and lasted longer in SHR than in WKY: BP change following iontophoretic was too small for statistical analysis. The effects of i.c.v. and iontophoretic administration of Ang II on BP and RVL neuronal activities were completely abolished by co-administration of saralasin, an Ang II antagonist. These findings suggest that the enhanced neural and pressor responses to brain Ang II probably act via RVL neurons, leading to the genesis of hypertension.

*Society for neuroscience abstract, 20th annual meeting, St. Lousi, Missouri.

SURFACE MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES OF TWO CERMET CEMENTS*

C.H. Chu, N.M. King, A.M.P. Lee, C.K.Y. Yiu and S.H.Y. Wei
Department of Children's Dentisty & Orthodontics,
University of Hong Kong, and
Medical and Health Department, MacLehose Dental Centre.

Abstract

Although numerous studies have evaluated the clinical efficacy of the reinforced glass ionomer cements known as glass cermet cements, only a limited number have investigated their characteristics at the microscopic level. The purpose of this investigation was to study the surface morphological changes of Ketac- and Chelon-Silver in primary molars at least 12 months after placement.

A group of 81 children aged between 7 and 9 years with carious lesions in matched pairs of their primary molars had one tooth restored with a cermet material, while the tooth on the other side was restored with Dispersalloy as a control. Sixteen of these children, selected randomly, had polyether impressions (Impregum-F) taken after polishing of the restorations and at 6 month time intervals. A total of 21 pairs of restorations were recorded in the impressions at each recall. Epoxy resin replicas were made and studied under SEM to evaluate the surface morphology of the restorations.

Preliminary observations under SEM made at a magnification of 500x showed that the metallic surface of the amalgam was the smoothest. The Ketac-Silver restorations had glass particles at the surface which were surrounded by an apparently denatured matrix. The surface of the Chelon-Silver was less homogeneous and contained multiple voids; which could have been caused by the incorporation of air during hand mixing of this material.

*13th Conference of the International Association of Dentistry for Children, Kyoto, Japan, September, 1991.

PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF CHELATING AGENTS AGAINST LIVER INJURY INDUCED BY GALACTOSAMINE AND ENDOTOXIN IN MICE*

W.W. Hu and W.M. Tom, Department of Pharmacology,
University of Hong Kong.

Abstract

Tumor necrosis factor (TNF), leukotriene D_4 and reactive oxygen species have been reported to be the mediators in the pathogenesis of galactosamine-and-endotoxin-(Gal & E) induced hepatitis. In this study, liver injury was assessed by measurement of serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase (SGPT) after coadministration of D-galacto-samine (600 mg/kg) and *Salmonella enteritidis* endotoxin (20 μg/kg) in ICR mice. The SGPT level was sharply increased from 10 to 16 hours by several hundred folds as compared with control. The specific content of hepatic cytochrome P-450 was depressed initially by 15% in 4 hours and then progressively decreased by 39% in 16 hours, whereas specific activity of microsomal 7-ethoxyresorufin deethylase was also decreased by 43% in 16 hours. It is known that dexamethasone inhibits endotoxin-induced release of TNF and interleukin-1. Pretreatment of 400 μg/kg dexamethasone fully protected the animals against liver injury, but it failed to prevent the depression of cytochrome P-450. In addition, pretreatment of mice with chelating agent, 400 mg/kg DMSA (*meso*-2, 3-dimercaptosuccinic acid), also protected the animals against liver injury and partially prevented the depression of specific content and activity of cytochrome P-450 by 23% and 36% respectively. Other chelating agents such as disodium edetate and DMPS (dimercaptopropane-1-sulfonic acid) also had similar protective effects. It is suggested that metal ions may play a functional role in the depression of cytochrome P-450 as a result of liver damage induced by galactosamine and endotoxin in mice.

*Third International ISXX Meeting on Drug Metabolism: Molecules, Models and Man, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June, 1991.

FT SPECTROMETRIC STUDIES OF THE ENERGY PARTITIONING IN CH (B^2M–$X^2\pi$), CH ($A^2\triangle$–$X^2\pi$), and C_2($d^3\pi$–$a^3\pi$) PRODUCED IN LOW TEMPERATURE O-ATOM-ACETYLENE FLAMES*

Bess C.L. Kwong, D. Li and R.S. Tse, Department of Chemistry, University of Hong Kong.

Abstract

The energy partitioning of CH produced in low temperature O-atom-acetylene flames was found to obey Boltzmann distribution.

The emission spectra of the (0,0) bands for the CH (A-X & B-X) were simulated by assuming Boltzmann distributions and suitable halfwidths. The simulations were found to be close to the experimental results.

The deduced rotational temperature depends on the source of O-atoms. When O-atoms were obtained from the N + NO titration, the rotational temperature was found to be 520K; but if the O-atoms were obtained from oxygen discharge in argon, the rotational temperature was found to be 950K.

REFERENCES

(1) K. Suzuki and K. Kuchitsu, **Chem. Phys. Lett., 56,** 50, 1978.
(2) Jency L. Garland and David R. Crosley, **Appl. Opt., 24,** 4229, 1985.
(3) Christopher R. Brazier and J.M. Brown, **Can. J. Phys., 62,** 1563, 1984.

*23rd International Symposium on Combustion Orléans, France, July, 1990, p.222

SYNTHESIS, ELECTROCHEMISTRY AND X-RAY CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF CIS-[RU^{III}(PYEN) (Cl) (H_2O)] (ClO_4)$_2$$2H_2O$ (PYEN = N, N'-DIMETHYL-BIS (2-PYRIDYLMETHY) ETHYLENEDIAMINE) AND ELECTROCHEMICAL OXIDATION OF ALCOHOLS AND TETRAHYDROFURAN BY CIS-[RU^{v}(PYEN) (Cl) (O)]$^{2+}$*

Chi-Keung Li, and Chi-Ming Che, Department of Chemistry, University of Hong Kong.

Abstract

Reaction of K_2 [$RuCl_5(H_2O)$] with N, N'-dimethyl-bis (2-pyridylmethyl) ethylenediamine (pyen) in ethanol gave cis-[Ru^{III}(pyen)$C1_2$]$^+$ which formed cis-[Ru^{III}(pyen) (Cl) (H_2O)]$^{2+}$ upon reaction with Ag(I) in water. The structure of cis-[Ru^{III}(pyen) (Cl) (H_2O)] (ClO_4)$_2$.$2H_2O$ has been established by x-ray crystallography: space group *Pbca,* a = 10.863(1), b = 21.548(2), c = 21.912(2) Å. The measured Ru-Cl and Ru-OH_2 distances are 2.307(4) Å and 2.070(9) Å respectively. Cyclic voltammogram of cis-[Ru^{III}(pyen) (Cl) (H_2O)]$^{2+}$ in 0.1 M CF_3CO_2H shows three reversible/quasi-reversible couples at 1.29, 0.93 and 0.29 V (vs SCE) which are assigned to the respective Ru(V)/ Ru(IV), Ru(IV)/Ru(III) and Ru(III)/Ru(II) couples. The cis-[Ru^{III}(pyen) (Cl) (H_2O)]$^{2+}$ is an active catalyst for the electrochemical oxidation of alcohols and tetrahydrofuran. The second order rate constant for the oxidation of benzyl alcohol by the electrochemical generated cis-[Ru^{v}(pyen) (Cl) (O)]$^{2+}$ is estimated to be 8.4 x $10^4M^{-1}S^{-1}$.

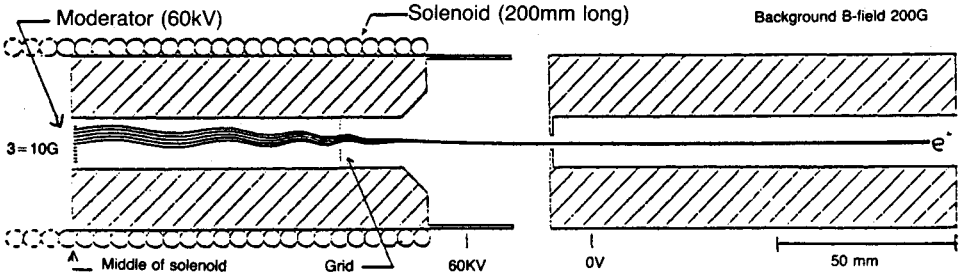
*A.C.S. Meeting, 1990.

THE FOCUSING OF A POSITRON BEAM BY AN ELECTROSTATIC LENS AND AN INCREASING MAGNETIC FIELD*

W.K. Wong, R. Unwin, C.D. Beling, S. Fung,
Department of Physics, University of Hong Kong.

Abstract

The focusing of a positron beam by a simple electrostatic lens and an increasing solenoidal magnetic field is investigated by computer simulation using the standard software SIMION. The proposed system is shown in the following figure.



The system is cylindrically symmetrical with respect to the beam axis. A short solenoid is introduced in order to reduce a uniform horizontal background of 200G to 10G at the moderator. When positrons travel along the magnetic field lines in the course of their motion and when they experience an increasing magnetic field (one in which the field lines are more closely packed), the radius of the beam decreases. This can be seen clearly on the left side of the grid in the figure, before the effect of the electrostatic lens is experienced. In the simulation, positrons are emitted from the moderator according to the characteristics of the tungsten crystal, at an angle of 10° with respect to the beam axis and with an energy of 3eV (work function of W.) They are then accelerated to 60keV by an electrostatic lens. The beam with an original radius of 5mm is focused down to 1.2mm in a field of 200G, thereby reducing the radius of by more than a facor of 4. This method of focusing is found to perform well at all lower beam energies. It is inexpensive as the electrostatic lens used is of a simple 2 element type. Further, the technique is innovative in that not only is the magnetic field used for transporting the beam but it also functions as an important component for focusing the beam in conjunction with the electric field.

*9th International Conference on Position Annihilation, Hungary, 1991.

CHANGES OF NEUROPEPTIDES IN SPINAL CORD AND BRAINSTEM OF WOBBLE MOUSE AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF MOTONEURON DISEASE*

K.K.L. Yung, F. Tang, L.L. Vacca-Galloway, Depts. of Anatomy and Physiology, University of Hong Kong.

Abstract

As a model for study of human motoneuron disease, the autosomal recessive mutant Wobbler mouse (wr) exhibits a progressive loss of motoneurons in spinal cord and brainstem. In early stages of the disease, axons containing substance P (SP) and thyrotropin releasing hormone (TRH) but not leucine enkephalin (LE) appeared increased by immunocytochemistry around cervical motoneurons (Vacca-Galloway, L.L. and Steinberger, C., J. Neurosci. Res., 16:657-670, 1986). Recent radio-immunoassay (RIA) studies have shown that TRH, LE and methionine enkephalin (ME) contents increased in the spinal cord at different stages of the wr disease (Tang F. *et al,* Brain Res., in press, 1990).

In the present study stages of motoneuron disease were evaluated in NFR/wr mice (NIH, Besthesda, Md.,) 3 weeks to 11 months old, identified by behaviorial tests (Langes, D.J. *et al,* J. Neurol. Sci., 61:211-216, 1983). The wr mice (Stages 1 to 4) and their control littermates (Stage 0) were decapitated, the cervical spinal cord, brainstem, also hypothalams and midbrain were collected, and the TRH, SP, LE and ME contents were compared by RIA.

In experiments wherein all control values were pooled, TRH in wr spinal cord was increased significantly in Stages 1 and 2, SP increased in Stages 1 and 4, and LE increased throughout Stages 1 to 4. When control littermates were statistically pair-matched with wr littermates. SP contents at Stage 1 showed no increase in spinal cord. ME contents increased in Stage 1 and 2 but not 3 and 4 when control values were pooled, but showed opposite results when control and wr values were pair-matched. In wr brainstem TRH increased significantly in Stages 2 and 3, however SP showed no increase, ME and LE became incrased in Stages 3 and 4. Trends observed for these peptides in spinal cord and brainstem may relate to disease development.

*20th Annual Meeting of Society for Neuro Science, Missouri, Part II, Oct. 1990.

Amalgam Toxicity

by

C.H. Chu, Dept. of Children Dentistry
University of Hong Kong

Seminar Paper

Silver amalgam is a kind of dental restorative material that has been used for more than 150 years. Since the airing of CBS, 60 Minutes Plus, report on TVB Pearl on 5th May, 1991, some members of the public expressed concern about the alleged toxic effect of amalgam in their own mouth. More and more people are becoming concerned and keen to have amalgam restorations to be replaced as mercury from amalgam causes mercury poisoning or mercury allergy.

In a six-page letter to 60 Minutes Plus Producer, Don Hewitt, the president of the American Dental Assoication stated that the report contained numerous inaccuracies, omitted important information and created serious misconception .... Perhaps the most troubling is the irresponsible way in which viewers were led to the conclusion that amalgam fillings are unsafe.

Although there are quite a number of articles talking about the local and systemic effects of the mercury released from amalgam restorations, Bergman (1987) studied the probable reaction of amalgam involving 1300 patients and found that there were only 4 probable and 3 possible reactions to amalgam, making no more than 0.05% of all patients!

Olstad and his colleague (1987) studied the correlation between amalgam and mercury concentration in urine and found that there was no correlation existing between mercury and allergy or between urine mercury and illness. Molin's report (1990) stated that 'No results are available on the contribution of mercury from dental amalgam to plasma.' Patterson and co-workers (1985), Major (1987) did question about any clinical significance on the amount and effects of mercury exposure to patients and dental personnel.

In 1983 in England and Wales nearly 25 million amalgam restorations were placed under the National Health Service and in the United State, more than 160 million amalgam restorations are placed each year. If problems of mercury toxicity from amalgam exist they affect a tiny proportion of the population. Bass (1943), Thomson and Russel (1970), Feuerman (1974) reported that the adverse effects of amalgam were self limiting.

Different methods of calculations concerning mercury toxicity have been proposed. They are not standardised and comparison of the findings is impossible. Some conclusion and implication based on the experimental studies using animals is controversial. Olsson and Bergman (1987), Berglund (1988) disagreed with the method of calculation from the Anti-amalgamists concering intra-oral air mercury release from dental amalgam. Vimy's measurements of mercury intakes using the Jerome Mercury Vapour Analyzer were shown to be incorrect (Mackert, 1987 & 1991; Berglund et al, 1988; Langworth et al, 1988; Olsson et al, 1989). Molin (1990) reviewed calculation of the relative contribution of mercury from expired and intraoral air is very complicated and some of the published results have been proved to be wrong. Langan and co-workers (1987) made a detailed and critical review and concluded that "there is no evidence in the scientific literature that the minute amount of mercury vapour that may be released from amalgam restorations caused mercury poisoning.

Chang and co-workers (1987), Eley and Cox (1987), Mjor (1987), Envonvu (1987), Dodes (1988), Reinhardt (1988) and Renson (1989) reviewed the literatures and they all found that on the basis of the reviews and current information, amalgam is safe for patients not allergic to mercury and the occurrence of mercury allergy is reviewed that mercury in dental amalgam is relatively safe, with the potential for mercury toxicity negligible.

A summary report was issued by the expert of the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden in 1987. ".... symptoms resulting from expose to mercury from amalgam are non-specific. It is therefore not possible to decide in individual cases whether the symptoms are mercury-related or not. As mercury exposure from amalgam is low, the number of patients with symptoms caused by mercury should be very low. ..... possible foetal damage poses a special problem .... However this potential risk has not been verified experimentally or epidemiologically."

The American Dental Association in 1989 published a report on the safety of dental amalgam from the Council on Dental Materials, Instruments and Equipment and the Council on Dental Therapeutics. The Council emphasized that except in individual allergic to mercury, there is no reason why patient should seek to have amalgam restoration removed.

In conclusion, there is no justification for a dentist to *initiate* the removal of amalgam and replacement with other materials based on the current knowledge. Any removal of amalgam from a non-allergic patient for the alleged purpose of removing toxic substances from the body – *at the sole suggestion of the dentist* – is unethical and improper.

REFERENCES

Council on Dental Materials, Instrument and Equipment and Council on Dental Therapeutics. Safety of Dental Amalgam – an update.
J Am Dent Assoc 1989; Vol. 119, pp. 204-205

The use of Mercury in Dentistry: a critical review of recent literature.
J Am Dent Assoc 1987; Vol. 115, pp. 867-880.

Bass M
Idiosyncrasy to Metallic Mercury, with special reference to Amalgam fillings in the teeth.
J Pediat 1943; Vol. 23, pp. 125-218.

Bauer JB
Action of Mercury in Dental Exposure to Mercury.
Oper Dent Vol. 10, pp. 104-113.

Berglund A, Pohl L, Olsson S and Bergman M
Determination of the rate of release of intra-oral mercury vapour from amalgam.
J Dent Res 1988; Vol. 67, pp. 1235-1242.

Chang SB, Siew C and Grainger SE
Examinations of blood levels of mercury in practising dentists using coldvapor atomic absorption spectometry.
J Anal Toxicol 1987; Vol. 11 pp. 149-153.

Dodes JE
Amalgam toxicity: a review of the literature.
Oper Dent 1988; Vol. 13, p. 32-36.

A Glimpse of Chinese-American Relations: A Study of Historians' Role

by

Cindy Chu Yik Yi, Dept. of History
University of Hong Kong

Seminar Paper

"What do historians do?"
"Historians study the past."

Historians study the past so as to understand the present. We live under our past's shadow. Past lessons facilitate comprehension of our own identity, our society and men. It is hoped that with this knowledge we can avoid old mistakes and be wiser when similar circumstances reappear.[1] We study History for the sake of our present and our future. Historians hunt into for the past for solutions to existent problems. In other words, historians are always "in search for a usable past" to explain the present and to handle contemporary crises.[2] Thus, it is not surprising or difficult to see why prevalent political, cultural and social attitudes affects and shape historical writings.[3] Interpretations change over time. This is especially true for the study of American diplomatic history.

I will employ a case study -- the historiography of Chinese-American relations in 1949 and 1950 -- to show how American historical studies have evolved. For some of you who are not very familiar with this history, I will say briefly what happened in these two years. In January 1949, Jiang Jieshi resigned as the President of the Nationalist Government. In April, the Communists crossed the Yangtze and determined China's political future. Mao Zedong announced his decision to "lean to one side" in mid-1949.[4] On October 1, Mao proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China and Zhou Enlai requested normal diplomatic relations with every country. Beiping, now the capital, became Beijing. So, a Communist China moved into 1950. The Sino-Soviet alliance was formed in February. Four months later, the Korean War broke out and the Truman Government sent the 7th Fleet to the Taiwan Strait. On October 3, Zhou Enlai warned that China would intervene should American troops cross the 38th Parallel. Unfortunately, U.S. army did so on the seventh. As Zhou had warned, on the fourteenth, Chinese People's volunteers crossed the Yalu River into North Korea. China's offensives began, in fact, though not in name. On November 24, General Douglas MacArthur launched his "end the war" campaign and committed American troops along the Chinese border. In less than three days, Chinese army forced the United Nations command into retreat. At last, China entered the war. From then on, Chinese American relations underwent two decades of mutual hostility, both unnecessary and avoidable.

How have American historians seen this history? And, how have their interpretations changed? The United States emerged as the most powerful nation after W.W.II. In the 1950s, its strength reached an unprecedented peak. It was in such political atmosphere that the consensus school (or what we now call the orthodox school) developed.[5]Consensus historians believed in American peculiarity.[6] They considered the superiority of American civilization as self-evident after its victory in the war. A strong affirmative tone characterized their works.[7] These historians portrayed American society as predominantly one-class, that of the middle class, and providing equal opportunities for all.[8] They were confident that new immigrants would eventually be Americanized into this large melting pot. So, we have the "Big America" thesis.

However, a sense of crisis also infiltrated the 1950s just after the Cold War with the Soviet Union began.[9] There were mixed feelings in American society. On the one hand, Americans were proud of their way of life. On the other hand, they were fearful of possibilities of Communist subversions within their society. Historical works tended to reflect these sentiments and described the world as divided between Democratic states and Communist states. This Manichaen world view comprehended only two ways of of life: liberalism and totalitarianism. Historians tried to tackle the question of whether the United States could master a leading role in the struggle against world Communism.[10] Therefore, consensus historians were so labeled because they followed closely American policymakers' interpretations and goals. They did not hesitate to employ Washington's Cold War rhetoric.

Consensus historians regarded the Chinese Communists' victory in 1949 as a major debacle in American foreign policy.[11] They claimed that the United States had lost China, which it had never possessed. They believed that the Chinese revolution was the turning point in Chinese-American relations, after which accommodation between Washington and Beijing was impossible.[12] Consensus historians condemned the Beijing regime as a mere Soviet puppet and accused it of backing up the North Koreans for the interests of Communist imperialism.

This consensus school lasted until the late 1960s and was then replaced by the revisionists.[13] Unlike the previous decade, the 1960s were years of distrust and reduced confidence.[14] Student movements appeared in university campuses. The American youth questioned their government's sincerity in handling internal problems. They even doubted America's so-called noble cause in its foreign policy. It was in the 1960s that antipoverty, civil rights, antiwar and women's movements broke out in the United States. Revisionists in the late 1960s were left historians because they totally condemned their country's foreign policy. Instead of charging the Soviet Union with starting the Cold War, they now blamed the United States. They saw it as an imperialist looking for economic interests elsewhere in the world. In their

opinion, the United States, rather than the Soviet Union, was mainly responsible for extending the Cold War to Asia.[15] After the Vietnam War in the 1970s, revisionist historians treated the Chinese Communists in a different manner, considering them as both "Communists" and nationalists. That is to say, the Beijing regime had not been a Soviet satellite and had not sacrificed Chinese interests for Moscow's support. It was wrong that the United States stubbornly opposed China in 1949. The United States committed a more disastrous mistake by ignoring Zhou Enlai's warning and fighting against China in the Korean War. This is really a breakthrough in historical analysis.

In the 1980s, a more mature scholarship developed, known as the post-revisionist school. Post-revisionists were younger historians whose intellectual development had been influenced by America's involvement in Vietnam.[16] They cultivated an interest in Asian cultures and history. Their experience enabled them to view Asia from different perspectives and ask more critical questions. Also, with the gradual declassification of American archives, these historians could utilize many previously untapped sources and make more exciting discoveries. This made their work more profound. Revisionist historians saw the Korean War, rather than the Chinese revolution, as the turning point in Chinese American relations. A faction of this school even argued that chances existed in 1949 and until October 1950 for accommodation between Beijing and Washington. The State Department contemplated recognizing China, which also provided such chances. Nevertheless, the Korean War's outbreak was tragic. This "lost chance" theory is bold but influential. In general, post-revisionist historians held both the United States and China responsible for their two decades of mutual hostility.

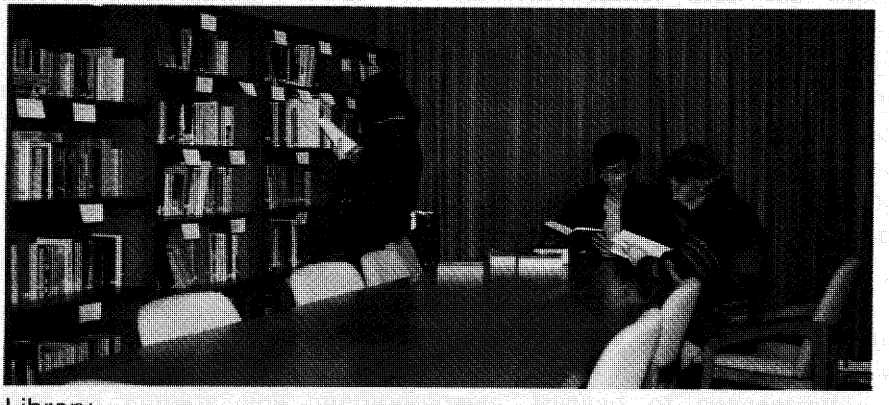
Thus, since the 1950s, historians have been giving more dynamic interpretations and exploiting newer sources. In the 1990s, historians will continue to employ new methodologies. Instead of concentrating on American records, historians are now trying to tap any available Chinese sources. Of course, this requires that historians know both languages. But, it is hoped that the historical profession can train people competent in both American and Chinese studies. Only through mutual understanding can we develop healthy Chinese-American relations. John K. Fairbank, our greatest scholar in China studies, once remarked: "Knowledge can help understanding, and understanding can help toward friendship and peaceful relations."[17] "Peace and understanding" were his aims. Without this sense of duty and responsibility, the historical profession would not grow and prosper as it did. I hope that historians in future can live up to Fairbank's goals.

NOTES

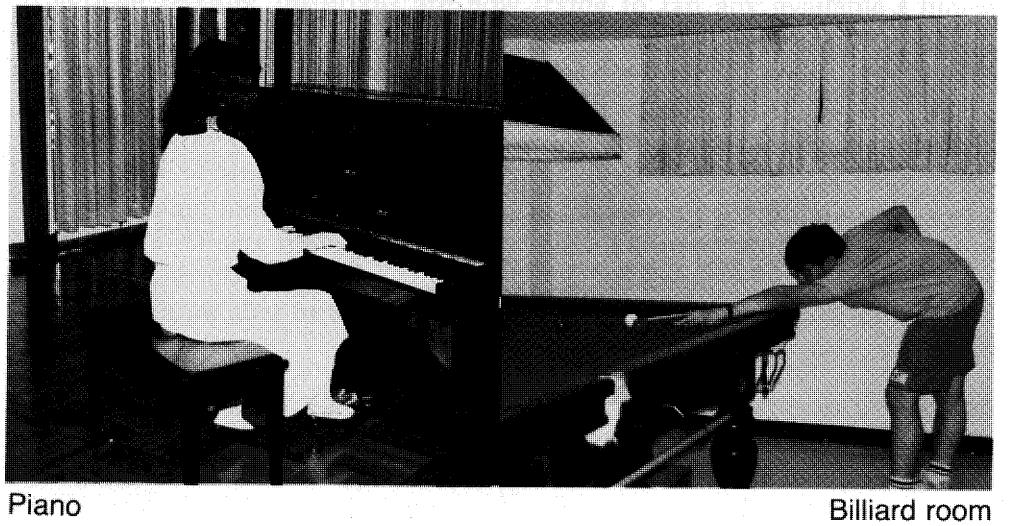
[1]Barbara Tuchman, *Practising History: Selected Essays by Barbara Tuchman*, Macmillan, 1989, p.249.
[2]Here, I am indebted to Dr. Hans Schmidt's comments to my research proposal at the beginning of my M.Phil. program.
[3]Walter L. Hixson, "Orthodoxy or Objectivity? The Truman Doctrine and the Noble Dream," *Diplomatic History*, 1991, p.129.
[4]That is, China would lean to the Soviet side.
[5]*Ibid.;* Robert J. McMahon, "The Cold War in Asia: Toward a New Synthesis?" *Diplomatic History*, 12, 1988, p.308-9.
[6]Hixson, 129.
[7]Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream: The "Objectivity Question" and the American Historical Profession*, Cambridge University Press, 1988, p.286.
[8]Representative of such works is John Spanier, *American Foreign Policy Since World War II* (New York: Praeger, 1960).
[9]Novick, p.314.
[10]*Ibid.*, p.306.
[11]McMahon, p.308.
[12]*Ibid.*
[13]*Ibid.*, p.309.
[14]Novick, p.415.
[15]Mchahon, p.309.
[17]Akira Iriye, "Reischauer, Fairbank, and American-Asian Relations," *Diplomatic History*, 12, 1988, p.329.

New Facilities

Over the years, subject to the availability of funds various improvements have from time to time been made on the facilities in the College . The pace of improvement accelerated somewhat during the last few years as more funds were available from the substantial operational surplus of the College. The College office has recently been enlarged to provide for a "lobby" area for reception of arriving guests. The office is now equipped with fax and E-mail for communications and a computer system for registration, billing, etc. In the past, the shelves in the library used to be filled with donated books, usually of a vintage nature. Beginning this year, an annual budget has been set aside to purchase new books including Chinese books for the library which has been re-furnished with a new conference table and chairs so that it can also be used as a meeting room. A cardphone has been installed outside the library for residents to make overseas IDD calls with credit cards. For the last eighteen months, a College car has been available to take residents to the airport and railway station. On the cultural and recreational front, there are now a billiard room, a piano and a karaoke system for use by residents. Finally, the guest rooms are equipped with practically all the facilities typical of a hotel room.

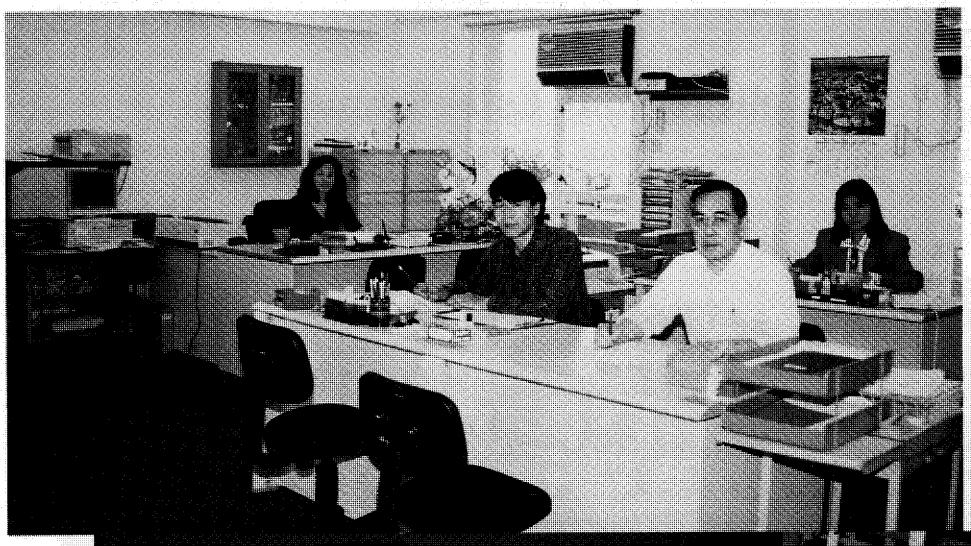


Library



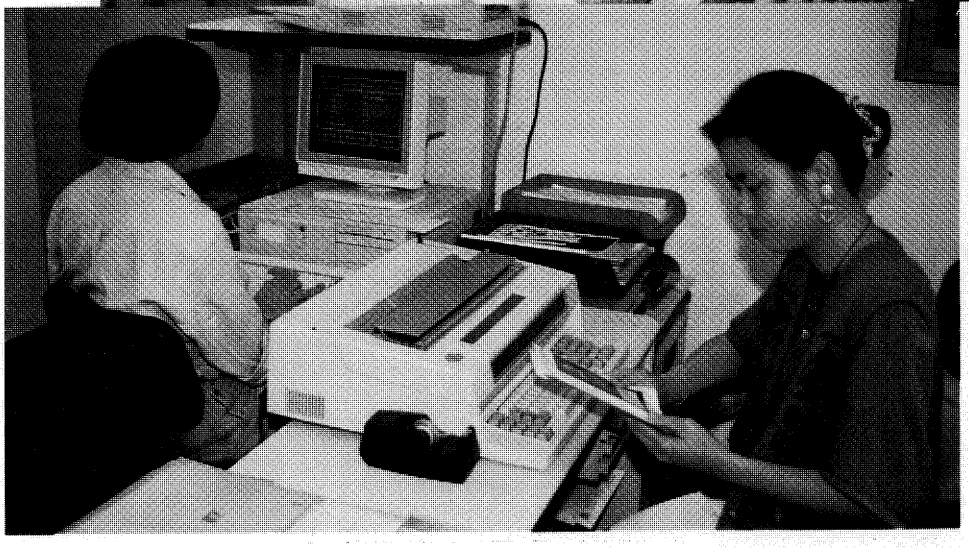
Piano

Billiard room



Office

raoke System



Computerisation

College Staff Establishment

1992

From left to right

2rd row	M. Yeung	楊　妹	S.H. Fung	馮淑嫻	F.H. Mok	莫鳳霞
	K.L. Lee	李錦鄰	C.K. So	蘇中堅	T.W. Lau	劉統榮
	K.H. So	蘇錦漢	K.T. Ho	何國添	W.F. Chan	陳惠芳
	C.W. Pak	白志偉	Y.B. Chiu	趙恩伴	L.C. Lau	劉兩泉
1st row	K.L. Li	李嘉玲	S.K. Lo	盧秀琼	L.W. Lam	林蓮和
	K.T. Sit	薛焜泰	Y.L. Tang	鄧月蘭	Y.M. Li	李綺梅
	Prof. W.S. Leung	梁維新	W.C. Lok	駱慧珠	M.F. To	陶美芳
	S.L. Chung	鍾秀蓮	P. Chiu	趙　柏	K.W. Lai	賴國華

Appendix I

Robert Black College Committee of Management
Membership Lists
1989/90 – 1991/92

1989 - 1990

Chairman:

Prof. W.S. Leung

Members:

Prof. T.K. Chan
Prof. E.K.Y. Chen
Mr. D.A. Gledhill
Dr. L.B. Kan
Mr. V.H.C. Ko
Mr. T.I. Kong
Dr. B.M. Kotewall
Prof. N. Lee
Prof. K.C. Lye
Dr. N.G. Owen
Prof. Wang Gungwu
Prof. P. Wesley-Smith

1990 - 1991

Chairman:

Prof. W.S. Leung

Members:

Prof. T.K. Chan
Prof. E.K.Y. Chen
Mr. D.A. Gledhill
Dr. L.B. Kan
Mr. V.H.C. Ko
Mr. T.I. Kong
Dr. B.M. Kotewall
Prof. N. Lee
Prof. K.C. Lye
Dr. N.G. Owen
Prof. Wang Gungwu
Prof. P. Wesley-Smith

1991 - 1992

Chairman:

Prof. W.S. Leung

Members:

Prof. T.K. Chan
Prof. E.K.Y. Chen
Mr. D.A. Gledhill
Dr. L.B. Kan
Mr. V.H.C. Ko
Mr. T.I. Kong
Dr. B.M. Kotewall
Prof. N. Lee
Prof. K.C. Lye
Dr. N.G. Owen
Prof. Wang Gungwu
Prof. S.H.Y. Wei

Appendix II

Swire Scholars & Students Lists 1989/90 – 1991/92

1989 - 1990

Scholarships

Renewals

Mr. Chan Kai Wah (Physiology)
Mr. Lee Hok Shing (Civil & Structural Engineering)
Mr. Li Chi Keung (Chemistry)
Mr. Sze Kam Yim (Mechanical Engineering)

New Awards

Ms. Au Wai Ting, Doris (Botany)
Ms. Chen Kar Yee, Agnes (Biochemistry)
Ms. Kwong Chu Luen (Chemistry)
Ms. Li Yuk Wai (History)
Mr. Shum Heung Yeung (Electrical & Electronic Engineering)
Ms. Tsui Kwan Chui (Physics)
Mr. Yip Wai Tak (Chemistry)
Mr. Yung Kin Lam, Ken (Anatomy)

Studentship

1990 - 1991

Scholarships

New Award

Ms. Law Yuen Mei, Vicky (Chinese)

Renewals

Ms. Au Wai Ting, Doris (Botany)
Ms. Chen Ka Yee, Agnes (Biochemistry)
Ms. Kwong Chu Luen (Chemistry)
Mr. Lee Hok Shing (Civil & Structural Engineering)
Mr. Li Chi Keung (Chemistry)
Mr. Shum Heung Yeung (Electrical & Electronic Engineering)
Mr. Yip Wai Tak (Chemistry)
Mr. Yung Kin Lam, Ken (Anatomy)

New Awards

Mr. Jerome Chiu (Philosophy)
Dr. Chu Chun Hung (Children Dentistry)
Ms. Chu Yik Yi, Cindy (History)
Ms. Hu Wai Wai, Stella (Pharmacology)
Mr. Wong Wing Kai (Physics)

Studentship

Renewal

Mr. Law Yuen Mei, Vicky (Chinese)

1991 - 1992

Scholarships

Renewals

Ms. Au Wai Ting, Doris (Botany)
Dr. Chu Chun Hung (Children Dentistry)
Ms. Hu Wai Wai, Stella (Pharmacology)
Ms. Kwong Chu Luen (Chemistry)

New Awards

Ms. Chan Hau Nung (Sociology)
Mr. Chan Kwok Kuen (Zoology)
Mr. Fung Kwong Chi (Philosophy)
Mr. Ng Ka Wing, Simon (Geography & Geology)
Mr. Tang Siu Lung (Radioisotope Unit)
Ms. Tsang Yuen Yau (History)
Ms. Yang Yee Fain, Mary (Music)

Studentship

Renewal

Mr. Zhang Rong Shun (Law)

Master with scholars in college jackets 1992

Appendix III

Commonwealth Scholars Lists
1989/90 – 1991/92

Year of 1st Award	Name	Country
1989-1990	Ms. Gillian Mary Lyons	Australia
1990-1991	Ms. Yap Sook Lan	Singapore
1991-1992	Ms. Felicity Clare Rose	U.K.

Rotary Scholars Lists

Year	Name	Country
1989-1990	Mrs. Justine Maree Bomm	Australia
	Mrs. Joanne Hayes	South Africa
	Ms. Lisa Hill	U.K.
	Mr. David Wayne Lassiter	U.S.A.
	Mr. Alejandro Parada	Argentina
	Mr. Jeffrey Plungis	U.S.A.
	Ms. Deborah Ann Rynda	U.S.A.
	Mr. Maurice Benjamin Seko	U.S.A.
	Dr. C.V. Venkatachalan	India
	Ms. Lynda Weatherman	U.S.A.
1990-1991	Ms. Barbara Barns	U.S.A.
	Ms. Nisha Bismillah	Canada
	Ms. Louise Ann Tythacott	U.K.
1991-1992	Mr. Alexander Armand Karsner	U.S.A.
	Ms. Louise Laliberte	Canada
	Mr. Howard Eun Lee	U.S.A.
	Mr. Sean David Rocha	U.S.A.
	Ms. Lisa Young	U.S.A.

China Medical Board & NKVS Fellows Lists
1989/90 – 1991/92

Year	Name	Country
1989-1990	Dr. Cho Se Hyun	Korea
	Dr. Nestor E. De La Cruz	Philippines
	Dr. Emelita M. Gatmaitan	Philippines
	Dr. Hou Zhi Fu	China
	Dr. Huang Ping	China
	Dr. Gina Itchon	Philippines
	Dr. Jiang Xi Wang	China
	Dr. Ling Yi Pu	China
	Dr. Liu Guang Jian	China
	Dr. Liu Sheng Hong	China

	Dr. Liu Wen Xiu	China
	Dr. Rodolfo C. Ng	Philippines
	Dr. Antonio Armando A. Rosales	Philippines
	Dr. Suh Jeung Tak	Korea
	Dr. Wang Yu	China
	Dr. Xiao Jun Jun	China
	Dr. Yu Guang Di	China
	Dr. Zhang Ya Fei	China
	Dr. Zhang Pei Jin	China
	Zhong Yan Feng	China
1990-1991	Dr. Ma Nerissa Filipina Atienza	Philippines
	Dr. Rusdan Djamil	Indonesia
	Dr. Gunasyah Eka	Indonesia
	Dr. Jin Fan	China
	Dr. Lei Ji Liang	China
	Dr. Liang Ying Min	China
	Dr. Liu Ning	China
	Dr. Mei Qi Bing	China
	Dr. Ni Dian Tao	China
	Mr. Qian Zong Chai	China
	Dr. Nena Salubre	Philippines
	Dr. Elenita Sevilla	Philippines
	Dr. Marfe Tagardaprado	Philippines
	Dr. Wang Bo	China
	Dr. Xia Qiang	China
	Dr. Yao Yuan Qing	China
	Dr. Yu Ming Qing	China
	Dr. Zhan Xiao Chuan	China
	Dr. Zheng Yue Jie	China
	Dr. Zheng Shu Sen	China
1991-1992	Dr. Chen Qing Shan	China
	Dr. Chen Wei Zhe	China
	Dr. Ma Demetria T. David	Philippines
	Dr. Dou Ke Feng	China
	Dr. Feng Ping	China
	Dr. Gao Dong Wei	China
	Dr. Gao Zi Fen	China
	Dr. Arturo Jr. Gogo	Philippines
	Dr. Hu Bing Chang	China
	Dr. Huang He Feng	China
	Dr. Dong Heon Kim	Korea
	Dr. Lin Shan	China
	Dr. Liu Zhi Min	China
	Dr. Ma Jun Jiang	China
	Dr. Peng Rong Zong	China
	Dr. Ruan Di Ke	China
	Dr. Sofina Rusdan	Indonesia
	Dr. Oentoeng Soebroto Sudarjati	Indonesia
	Dr. Wang Jian An	China
	Dr. Wen Qin Sheng	China
	Dr. Zhu Jie Pei	China